**Financial Abuse**

**The Care Act 2014 describes ‘financial abuse’ as a type of abuse which includes having money or other property stolen, being defrauded, being put under pressure in relation to money or other property and having money or other property misused. It includes:**

**•** Theft, misappropriation or withholding of money, possessions or property.

• Mismanagement of finance and property.

• Pressure, by threat or persuasion, to influence wills, inheritance, property or financial transactions.

• The misuse of an enduring power of attorney, a lasting power of attorney, benefits agency appointeeship or court appointed deputyship.

• Denying access to care or accommodation for financial reasons.

• Manipulating or grooming an adult at risk in receipt of a personal budget or direct payment**.**

**What are the signs of Financial Abuse/Harm?**

**Professional relationships**

**It is contrary to professional standards for staff to enter into any kind of financial arrangements with an individual for whom they provide care. This includes knowingly being named as a beneficiary in a will.**

**Factors that may indicate financial or material abuse include:**

* Unexplained or sudden debts or inability to pay bills.
* Unusual or inappropriate bank account activity.
* Unexplained disappearance of financial documents.
* Disparity between assets and living conditions.
* Extraordinary interest by certain others in person’s assets.
* Financial dependency of others on the adult at risk of harm.
* Person managing financial affairs is evasive or uncooperative.
* Enduring Power of Attorney or Lasting Power of Attorney obtained, or wills signed when the person lacks mental capacity.
* Unexplained arrival of bills, credit card bills.
* Denial of access to funds or documentation.
* Changes to wills or deeds of title.
* Responsible person(s) fail(s) to account for expenses incurred on behalf of other(s).

**Types of financial or material abuse**

* Theft of money or possessions
* Fraud, scamming
* Preventing a person from accessing their own money, benefits or assets
* Employees taking a loan from a person using the service
* Undue pressure, duress, threat or undue influence put on the person in connection with loans, wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions
* Arranging less care than is needed to save money to maximise inheritance
* Denying assistance to manage/monitor financial affairs
* Denying assistance to access benefits
* Misuse of personal allowance in a care home
* Misuse of benefits or direct payments in a family home
* Someone moving into a person’s home and living rent free without agreement or under duress
* False representation, using another person's bank account, cards or documents
* Exploitation of a person’s money or assets, e.g. unauthorised use of a car
* Misuse of a power of attorney, deputy, appointeeship or other legal authority
* Rogue trading – e.g. unnecessary or overpriced property repairs and failure to carry out agreed repairs or poor workmanship

Possible indicators of financial or material abuse

* Missing personal possessions
* Unexplained lack of money or inability to maintain lifestyle
* Unexplained withdrawal of funds from accounts
* Power of attorney or lasting power of attorney (LPA) being obtained after the person has ceased to have mental capacity
* Failure to register an LPA after the person has ceased to have mental capacity to manage their finances, so that it appears that they are continuing to do so
* The person allocated to manage financial affairs is evasive or uncooperative
* The family or others show unusual interest in the assets of the person
* Signs of financial hardship in cases where the person’s financial affairs are being managed by a court appointed deputy, attorney or LPA
* Recent changes in deeds or title to property
* Rent arrears and eviction notices
* A lack of clear financial accounts held by a care home or service
* Failure to provide receipts for shopping or other financial transactions carried out on behalf of the person
* Disparity between the person’s living conditions and their financial resources, e.g. insufficient food in the house
* Unnecessary property repairs

[**What is Financial Abuse? - Ann Craft Trust**](https://www.anncrafttrust.org/resources/what-is-financial-abuse/)