

Dear Aunt Winnie,

My mother and father were married for over 30 years before he died of cancer. My dad worked hard all his life and never got to enjoy the fruits of his labor. About two years ago, my mother decided to marry again. Her "husband" now has brought next to nothing into the marriage and they both spend money like it's water, traveling around and buying excessive things they don't need. I am very angry with her. Do you have any thoughts on this?



Sincerely,

Angry Daughter

Disclaimer-The opinions expressed by Aunt Winnie are by no means professional nor do they reflect Aging Services, Inc. beliefs or ideas. Her opinions are strictly for reader enjoyment only!

Dear Angry Daughter,

There are certain things you just know you should steer clear of. Like when MC Hammer sang "U Can't touch This" in the early 1990's, that is how I feel about this subject. Even touching it remotely with a ten foot pole can be explosive.

But being a very opinionated woman that has driven around the block more than a few times, I just had to give my two cents worth and remember...that is all it is!

Family ties used to be so much easier, but now we have kids, step-kids, half siblings, ex- husbands, ex-wives, step moms and step dads. I am sure I'm missing more in the mix somewhere. I mean family trees are gigantic jungles now!

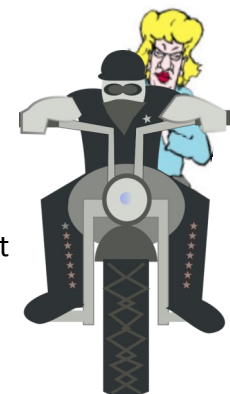
Throw money into the mix and see what concoction comes out of the blender! This kind of recipe is what wars are made of.

Bitterness and anger can be a highway to hell, so it's best not to travel that way. I am by far not the only one who speaks from experience when I felt "money" was not going into the right hands, but guess what?? It was never my money to begin with!

And in the wise words of my little grandson, "you just have to get over it grammy"! I trust that my children would support me if I decided to hop on a hot guy's Harley and travel to Vegas to get married, (okay, that sounds a little too extreme!) but you get the point! My kids are always yammering to me about enjoying life and going traveling. I find comfort in my family loving me for me and not what is in my bank account.

Now exploiting someone financially is a **WHOLE** different ball game and my lil Aunt Winnie column is NO match for that. This is why you **MUST** check out the following page to understand what a serious problem Elder Abuse can be in all it's forms!

Hope this has helped.



Sincerely,
Aunt Winnie

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**Friends and good
manners will
carry you where
money won't go.**

~Margaret Walker

DON'T LET YOU OR YOUR LOVED ONES BE A VICTIM OF ELDER ABUSE!

The Attorney General's Office believes that each of us has a role to play in preventing elder abuse and recommends the following tips for family members or caregivers to identify elder abuse:

- Be attentive to an elderly person's physical well-being. Look for any abrasions, bruises, fractures, burns or any other injury - these may be signs of physical abuse.
- Look for signs of psychological abuse such as threats, intimidation or humiliation. Signs may include low self-esteem, withdrawal, extreme changes in mood, suicidal behavior, confusion or disorientation.
- Be watchful of signs of neglect, such as poor hygiene, malnutrition, improper medication, or soiled clothing.
- Look for an unusual or large bank account withdrawal. This may be a sign that someone is exploiting the elderly person's financial resources.
- Keep an eye out for the common signs that they may be falling prey to a scam, such as frequent calls from telemarketers, shoddy home improvement work, numerous product purchases or ongoing charitable or religious donations.
- The loss of what may seem a minimal amount of money to someone with an average income may result in an elderly person having to go without food, medication or possibly his or her home.
- Talk about their daily activities and contacts to ensure that nothing unusual is occurring or being concealed.

If you believe an older adult is being taken advantage of and resides in Indiana County, you may contact Aging Services, Inc. Protective Services Unit at 724-349-6190 or 1-800-442-8016 and speak with a Protective Services Caseworker.

Reporting suspected abuse of an individual is voluntary and reporters may remain anonymous. Protective Services Caseworkers are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. When you call Aging Services to report abuse after regular business hours (8:30 to 4:30), you will be instructed to contact 911 and a Protective Services Caseworker will be in contact with you to take your information.

Did you know....

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has the third highest percentage of elderly residents in the United States with nearly 2 million residents over the age of 65. Statistically, senior citizens are favored targets for many kinds of consumer fraud including identity theft, charities, telemarketing and sweepstakes fraud. The Public Protection Division in the Office of the Attorney General addresses those types of consumer complaints as well as health care issues, violations of the Pennsylvania Do Not Call Law, and numerous other subjects.

Elder Abuse Helpline at 1-866-623-2137, email us at elderabuse@attorneygeneral.gov or fill out an [Elderly Abuse Complaint Form](#).