

Financial exploitation of elders is the **NUMBER ONE** crime against elders prosecuted by the Northwestern District Attorney's Office.

SOME HELPFUL TIPS FOR ELDERS TO AVOID FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

- Store all valuables in a safe deposit box or a secured lock box in your home.
- Never allow someone to withdraw money from your bank account for you, or use your credit/debit cards unless it is **trusted** member of your immediate family or friend.
- Shred all nonessential paperwork, such as bank statements, that may contain personal information.
- When appointing a Power of Attorney or other Fiduciary - **trust but verify**. Appoint someone you trust and make sure they know your wishes. Avoid a person who mismanages their own funds.
- Beware of any get-rich-quick schemes, IRS phone calls or investment opportunities. Avoid registering for sweepstakes, free vacations.
- **NEVER WIRE MONEY** to individuals claiming to recover lost monies, for a lottery or for a loved one who is "in jail."
- **NEVER GIVE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION OUT OVER THE PHONE!**

If you believe these things have happened to you or are a victim of theft, report the incident to your local Police Department.

Senior Outreach and Education The TRIAD Program



As part of the EPDU, the TRIAD program plays a major part in linking community partnerships. TRIAD is a community policing initiative between seniors, law enforcement and service providers to increase safety through education and crime prevention. Its goals are:

- To reduce criminal activity which targets older seniors;
- To alleviate seniors' fears of victimization, build confidence and improve the quality of life;
- To enhance delivery of law enforcement services to older seniors.

TRIAD is implemented by a S.A.L.T. (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together) Council which is composed of:

- Seniors
- Police, sheriff, the district attorney and protective service personnel

For information on TRIAD in your community, or how to begin one, please contact (413) 586-9225. Please see the TRIAD page on our website at ***NorthwesternDA.org***

Updated May 2018

Office of Northwestern District Attorney David E. Sullivan

Elders and Persons with Disabilities Unit



**Northampton, MA 01060
413-586-9225**

**Greenfield, MA 01301
413-774-3186**

**For more information, visit:
*NorthwesternDA.org***

Elders and Persons with Disabilities Unit

The Elders and Persons with Disabilities Unit (EPDU) investigates and prosecutes crimes in which elders and persons with disabilities have been victimized.

EPDU also provides education and training to vulnerable populations and local law enforcement agencies in areas of prevention and effective investigation of financial exploitation, physical and sexual abuse and caretaker neglect.

The Unit works with state civil agencies including adult protective services agencies and human resource agencies, on joint investigations where there are allegations of abuse or neglect by caretakers or others.

The Unit is led by Assistant District Attorney Anne Yereniuk and Unit Coordinator, Rachel Senecal.

Cases are referred to the Unit by the Disabled Persons Protection Commission (DPPC), adult protective service agencies, local and state law enforcement agencies and private citizens.



Crimes Against Elders

As the elder population continues to grow, crimes against elders will continue to increase in numbers and complexity. The EPDU staff is trained and prepared to respond to the special needs of the elder population and to ensure equal access to the criminal justice system, focusing on the investigation and prosecution of crimes committed against persons who are sixty years of age or older including, but not limited to:

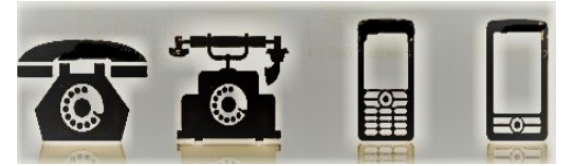
- Financial Exploitation
- Sexual Abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Caregiver Neglect

Crimes Against Persons with Disabilities

The EPDU is dedicated to assisting victims of abuse who have disabilities. The EPDU staff is trained and prepared to respond to the special needs of persons with disabilities so as to preserve the person's dignity and trust, as well as to ensure equal access to the criminal justice system, focusing on the investigation and prosecution of crimes committed against persons with mental illness, developmental disabilities and physical disabilities, including, but not limited to:

- Sexual Abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Caregiver Neglect
- Financial Fraud

Important Referral Numbers



- ♦ **Disabled Person Protection Commission Hotline** (800) 426-9009 24 hours a day / 7 days a week (24/7) (V/TTY)
- ♦ **Elder Abuse Hotline** (800) 922-2275 (24/7)
- ♦ **Highland Valley Elder Services** (413) 586-2000 Hours: 9-5; Serves Hampshire County cities and towns except Belchertown, Granby, South Hadley and Ware
- ♦ **LifePath** (413) 773-5555 Hours: 9-5; Serves all of Franklin County and the town of Athol
- ♦ **Greater Springfield Senior Services** (413) 781-8800 Hours: 9-5; Serves Belchertown, Granby, South Hadley and Ware
- ♦ **Northwestern District Attorney's Elder and Persons with Disabilities Unit** (413) 586-9225 Hours: 8-5; (413) 586-9382 TTY