



# World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) - June 15th

## About WEAAD

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is an opportunity for communities around the world to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older people. One of the most common types of abuse against older adults is financial fraud. Millions of seniors annually fall victim to some type of fraud. Criminals gain their targets' trust and communicate with them via computer, phone, or mail.

Once successful, scammers are likely to keep a scheme going because of the prospect of significant financial gain.

## Common Scams Targeting Older Adults

- **Romance Scam:** Scammers use dating & social networking sites to meet victims. They create fake profiles to build online relationships & eventually convince people to send money in the name of love.
- **Tech Support Scam:** Fraudsters call & claim to be computer technicians to warn about fake computer problems. They claim they have detected viruses, malware, or hacking attempts on the victim's computer. They ask victims to give them remote computer access. They diagnose a fake problem & pressure victims to pay large sums of money for unnecessary or even harmful services.
- **Grandparent Scam:** Fraudsters call & claim to be a grandchild on vacation in a foreign country. They claim to be in legal trouble and ask for money to be immediately wired so they can get out of jail.
- **Social Security Administration Scam:** Imposters call victims & say their Social Security number has been suspended due to suspicious activity. They ask to confirm the victim's Social Security number or ask to withdraw money from the victim's bank. Victims may be told their accounts will be seized if they do not act quickly.

- **IRS Impostor Scam:** IRS Imposters call & tell victims they owe money, and it must be paid promptly through wire transfers or other payments such as gift cards. Those who refuse to cooperate are threatened with arrest, deportation, or suspension of a business or driver's license.
- **Lottery Scam:** Fraudsters call seniors & tell them they've won sweepstakes or foreign lottery. They identify themselves as lawyers, customs, or lottery representatives. They tell people they have won vacations, cars or millions of dollars. "Winners" need only pay fees for shipping, insurance, customs duties, or taxes before they claim their prizes. Victims pay hundreds or thousands of dollars and receive nothing in return.

## Important Safety Tips

- Con artists pressure you to act quickly.
- They disguise their real phone numbers with fake local ones.
- They impersonate government agencies or legitimate companies.
- They ask for personal information such as Social Security numbers or bank account numbers.
- Always talk to a trusted friend or family member before sending money or sharing sensitive information.

## Stanislaus County Adult Protective Services (APS)

For more information, speak with an APS Social Worker about elder abuse or fraud and neglect.

**Phone:** 1-800-334-4316

**Office:** 3500 Coffee Road, Suite 19, Modesto, CA 95355

**Fax:** 209-558-2681