



Pennsylvania
Department of Aging



Pennsylvania
Department of
Banking and Securities



ELDER ABUSE: FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION AND HOW PENNSYLVANIANS CAN STAY SAFE



The recording of these collaborative discussions from statewide stakeholders was released by Pennsylvania Courts on the website of the Office of Elder Justice in the Courts on June 15, 2026, in honor of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

Host:

Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper, Administrative Judge, Orphans' Court Division, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas

Panelists:

Secretary Jason Kavulich, Pennsylvania Department of Aging

Bill Johnston-Walsh, State Director, AARP Pennsylvania

Karen Buck, Esq., Executive Director, SeniorLAW Center

Elizabeth Schneider, Esq., Chief Deputy Attorney General, Elder Exploitation Section, Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General

Moderator: **Robert Campbell**, Office of Elder Justice in the Courts, Administrative Offices of Pennsylvania Courts



"A Word from Finance and Law Enforcement" by:

David Shallcross, Director, Senior Protection Unit, Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General

Christina Kotsalos, Director, Investor Education and Consumer Outreach Office, Pennsylvania Department of Banking and Securities

VIDEO AVAILABLE AT:

**[HTTPS://WWW.PACOURTS.US/
JUDICIAL-ADMINISTRATION/COURT-PROGRAMS/
OFFICE-OF-ELDER-JUSTICE-IN-THE-COURTS](https://www.pacourts.us/judicial-administration/court-programs/office-of-elder-justice-in-the-courts)**



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TIPS DISCUSSED IN THE VIDEO

Hang up the phone: government and businesses will send letters for money owed, not calls or texts

Connect with community and support services

Pause and Verify: call the person or organization the caller claims to be directly, use or reference a family code word to confirm

Don't click on links you can't verify as safe

Report the scam attempt to law enforcement, banks, and credit card companies (financial crimes are widely underreported)

Check your mail statements from banking and utilities

Victim often knows the perpetrator

Scammers and exploiters will often take time to build trust and relationships with victims, and often focus on isolating (or isolated) individuals

- Some scams and exploitation discussed in the video:
- Romance scams
 - Pig butchering scams
 - Power of attorney abuses
 - Contractor fraud
 - Identity theft
 - Imposter scams
 - Cold calls: tech support or investments
 - Sweepstake or lottery prize-winning scams
 - Phishing (email), smishing (text), quishing (fake QR)
 - Fraudulent deeds

RESOURCES SHARED IN THE VIDEO

AARP Fraud Watch Network:
aarp.org/money/scams-fraud
AARP Fraud Network Hotline:
1-877-908-3360

PA Office of Attorney General:
attorneygeneral.gov
Senior Protection Helpline:
1-866-623-2137
Criminal Division Financial
Exploitation Unit, Scam Squad,
Senior Protection Unit

PA Department of Banking and
Securities (DoBS):
pa.gov/agencies/dobs
Many online services available

PA Department of Aging:
pa.gov/agencies/aging
455 senior centers in PA
52 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs)
Statewide Elder Abuse Hotline:
1-800-490-8505

SeniorLAW Center
Legal Helpline (statewide):
1-877-727-7529

FINRA Broker Check:
brokercheck.finra.org

[Office of Elder Justice in the Courts:](http://Office of Elder Justice in the Courts)
oejce@pacourts.us

PA Legal Aid Network (PLAN):
palegalaid.net

PA Office of Victims Services:
pa.gov/agencies/pcv
Crime Victims app
VCAP: Victims Compensation
Assistance Program
Victim Advocates and more