



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



June 15th, 2021

Fighting Elder Abuse is a top priority for the Oregon Department of Justice and Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum. With the COVID-19 pandemic and increased isolation of the elderly, the opportunity for financial and physical abuse is at an all-time high. Oregon DOJ joins other organizations fighting against elder abuse as part of an international movement to raise awareness.

Some warning signs of possible elder abuse include:

- Any unexplained or suspicious injury
- Situations where the elder is not given the opportunity to speak for themselves without the presence of the caregiver
- Elders who have suddenly become extremely withdrawn, noncommunicative or nonresponsive
- Sudden changes in the elder's financial situation (shutoff notices, unpaid bills, new credit cards, plummeting credit, etc.)

Some recent scams we have uncovered include:

- A “bail bondsman” calls requesting money to get a grandchild out of jail
 - *Oregon does not have a bail bondsman system*
- Someone pretending to be from a bank asks for account information to facilitate the elder getting a stimulus check
 - *The federal government distributes stimulus checks and will not ask for account information over the phone*

If you suspect an older adult is being abused call 1-855-503-SAFE (7233) or contact the local law enforcement agency where the older adult lives. One call could rescue an older adult who is unable to speak for themselves.