

The key to spotting financial abuse is a change in a person's established financial patterns. Watch out for these red flags:

- 1. Unusual activity in an older person's bank accounts, including large, frequent or unexplained withdrawals
- 2. Changing from a basic account to one that offers more complicated services the customer does not fully understand or need
- 3. Withdrawals from bank accounts or transfers between accounts the customer cannot explain
- 4. A new "best friend" accompanying an older person to the bank
- 5. Sudden non-sufficient fund activity or unpaid bills
- 6. Closing CDs or accounts without regard to penalties
- 7. Uncharacteristic attempts to wire large sums of money
- 8. Suspicious signatures on checks, or outright forgery
- 9. Confusion, fear or lack of awareness on the part of an older customer
- 10. Checks written as "loans" or "gifts"
- 11. Bank statements that no longer go to the customer's home
- 12. New powers of attorney the older person does not understand
- 13. A caretaker, relative or friend who suddenly begins conducting financial transactions on behalf of an older person without proper documentation
- 14. Altered wills and trusts

