**HELPFUL RESOURCES**

If you or a loved one has been the victim of financial elder abuse, or if you want to learn more about what constitutes financial elder abuse, consider the following resources:

1. **Adult Protective Services**

(APS) is available in each county in California to investigate reports of abuse of elders and dependent adults who live in private homes and hotels or hospitals and health clinics when the abuser is not a staff member. A statewide aging services information line 800-510-2020 will provide information on your local APS office, or you can visit: [www.cdss.ca.gov/Adult-Protective-Services/County-APS-Offices](http://www.cdss.ca.gov/Adult-Protective-Services/County-APS-Offices)

1. **Local Law Enforcement**

Your local police or sheriffs may have dedicated elder abuse units. You may call their general information number and ask for their elder abuse unit. If it is an emergency, you should call 911 immediately.

1. **A Citizen’s Guide to Preventing & Reporting Elder Abuse**

The California Department of Justice has published online its *Citizen’s Guide to Preventing & Reporting Elder Abuse* that may be found at: http://ag.ca.gov/bmfea/pdfs/citizens\_guide.pdf. The Guide has valuable information about both physical and financial elder abuse and how to report it.

**4. California State Bar Certified Legal Specialist Search**

The California State Bar certifies lawyers as legal specialists in particular areas of the law. To be certified as a legal specialist, the lawyer must satisfy additional testing, continuing education and experience requirements. The areas of specialization that frequently involve senior issues are (1) estate planning, trust and probate law and (2) elder law. To connect with a certified legal specialist, the website is: https://members.calbar.ca.gov/search/ls\_search.aspx. There, you can search by county and area of specialization to find qualified attorneys who may be able to assist you.

**5. California State Bar-Certified Lawyer Referral Service**

The California State Bar – Certified Lawyer Referral Service refers potential clients to attorneys. If you want to talk to a lawyer, a lawyer referral service is a good place to call. The lawyer referral service staff will interview you and, if you have a legal problem, will match you with a lawyer who is experienced in the appropriate area of law. You will then see the lawyer for an initial consultation or speak to the lawyer on the phone. To connect with a State Bar-certified lawyer referral service or to learn more about this resource, call 866-44-CA-LAW (866-442-2529) or go online to http://www.calbar.ca.gov/Public/Need-Legal-Help/Lawyer-Referral-Service.

**6. California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform**

(CANHR) is dedicated to improving the choices, care and quality of life for California’s long-term care consumers. CANHR provides senior consumer information on long-term care Medi-Cal, nursing homes, and assisted living. CANHR can be reached by calling toll free 800-474-1116, or on the web at *http://www.canhr.org.* CANHR’S lawyer referral service is certified by the California State Bar and can be found at: http://www.canhr.org./LRS/index.html

**7. California Department of Business Oversight**

(DBO) provides protection to consumers and services to businesses engaged in financial transactions. Special tips on protecting yourself from financial fraud and scams are available through the DBO’s Seniors Against Investment Fraud (SAIF) program. To find out more about SAIF contact the DBO at 866-275-2677, or visit them at *www.dbo.ca.gov.* For a list and explanation of some of the most common financial scams against seniors, review DBO’s online brochure, *Protect Yourself from Fraud* that can be found at:

http://www.dbo.ca.gov/Consumers/SAIF/Pubs/Protect\_Yourself\_From\_Fraud(2014)English.pdf

**8. LawHelpCA.org**

LawHelpCA.org is an online resource that helps people of low and moderate incomes find free legal information and legal aid programs in their communities. Visit the website at https://www.lawhelpca.org/ to learn more about what is available through this service.

**9. Senior Legal Hotline (800) 222-1753**

The Senior Legal Hotline is a nonprofit legal aid program offering civil legal assistance via free telephone consultation in certain cases, including tenant rights, estate planning, probate, grandparent rights, landlord/tenant disputes, pensions and retirement benefits, and public benefits.