

Targeting Elder Fraud and Abuse

Our office remains focused on fighting elder fraud and protecting vulnerable seniors. On Jan. 20, prosecutors secured the conviction of a fraudster who took over \$400,000 from a 93-year-old victim's bank accounts.

The defendant pleaded guilty to two felonies in this exploitation of a man who was living at an assisted living facility. The punishment: 75 months in state prison. Sadly, these financial crimes are all too common.

We are determined to seek justice for victims. Four prosecutors from our white collar crime unit serve on a task force with law enforcement partners and local agencies. This collaboration has sped up investigations and produced successful prosecutions.

Our office also has a team specializing in elder abuse. We review complaints sent from the state Department of Children & Families and make sure criminal allegations are turned over to law enforcement and properly investigated.

We also reach out to vulnerable elderly victims to make sure they have a friendly contact person within our office if the case rises to the level of prosecution.

We will continue to make it a priority to protect senior citizens from exploitation, whether it's financial fraud or physical abuse. If you know of someone in danger:

Call DCF's Hotline at 800-96-ABUSE (800-962-2873).

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office non-emergency line: 561-688-3000.