

Vision

A future that values and safeguards the financial well-being of older Texans.



TEXAS ELDER JUSTICE COALITION

Presenter:

— Dana Hoffman,
Texas Elder Justice Coalition Coordinator
Guardianship Services



What does Guardianship Services Inc. do?

Provides guardianship and supports and services that protect at risk adults.



Prevent fraud and financial exploitation with education and referrals through the **Financial Exploitation Prevention Center (FEPC)**.



Preserve financial security with the greatest possible independence with **Money Management** services.



Protect the most vulnerable adults through court-ordered care in our **Guardianship Program**.



GSI 2023 Demographics



Clients by program:

- ▶ Guardianship = 264
- ▶ Money Management = 235
- ▶ FEPC = 672
- ▶ Total Unduplicated = 1,171



GSI 2023 Demographics (Description)

▶ Race

- Asian = 1%
- Black or African American = 32%
- Hispanic = 20%
- American Indian or Alaskan Native = 1%
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander = 1%
- White = 42%
- More than 1 race = 3%

▶ Gender

- Female = 59%
- Male = 41%

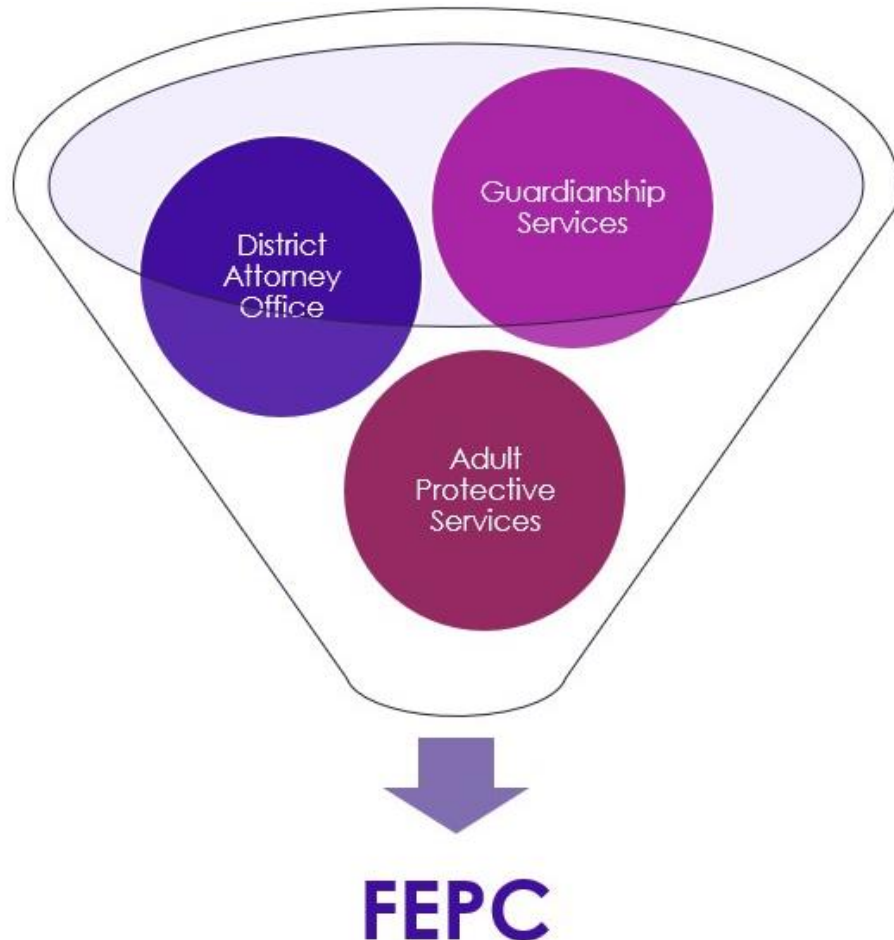
▶ Age

- 25 to 59 = 32%
- 60+ = 68%

▶ Income

- Up to \$14,580 = 43%
- \$14,580 to 58,320 = 56%
- \$58,230+ = 1%

Partnership to Create FEPC



- ▶ The mission of the Financial Exploitation Prevention Center (FEPC) is to create a unified network of partners committed to the prevention, protection, and prosecution of financial exploitation of aging and/or disabled adults in Tarrant County.



FEPC of Tarrant County

FEPC is dedicated to connecting aging adults with one or more physical, developmental, or cognitive disability, their family and caregivers, with needed services, programs and supports to prevent and protect vulnerable adults from financial exploitation.

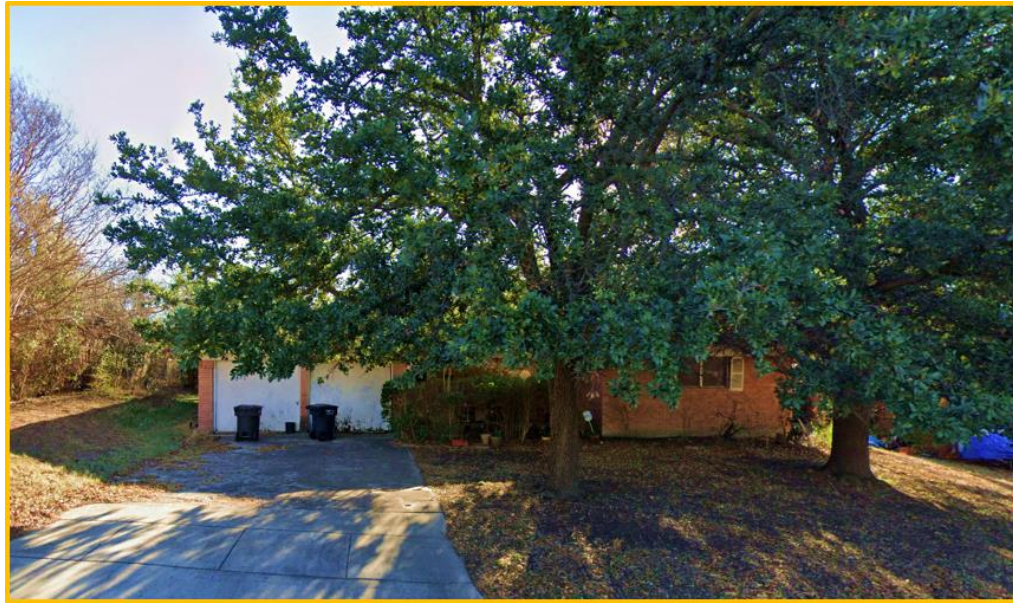


FEPC of Tarrant County continued

FEPC Services:

- ▶ Attendant care services
- ▶ Benefits and insurance counseling
- ▶ Burial assistance
- ▶ Case management
- ▶ Dementia evaluation and support groups
- ▶ Employment counseling and training
- ▶ Errand support
- ▶ Family and caregiver support and educational programs
- ▶ Food
- ▶ Health screenings and wellness programs
- ▶ Housing navigation
- ▶ Hygiene items
- ▶ Income tax preparation assistance
- ▶ In-home care
- ▶ Nourishing meals/companion pet meals
- ▶ Respite programs
- ▶ Socialization opportunities
- ▶ Transit services
- ▶ Utility bill and rental assistance
- ▶ Veteran's services
- ▶ Volunteer opportunities

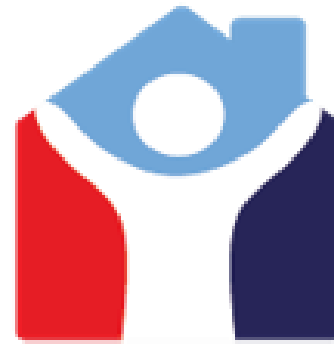
GSI Community Partnership



Partnership to Create Texas Elder Justice Coalition



- ▶ Financial Exploitation Prevention Center
- ▶ Focus on reducing financial risks for older adults and people with disabilities

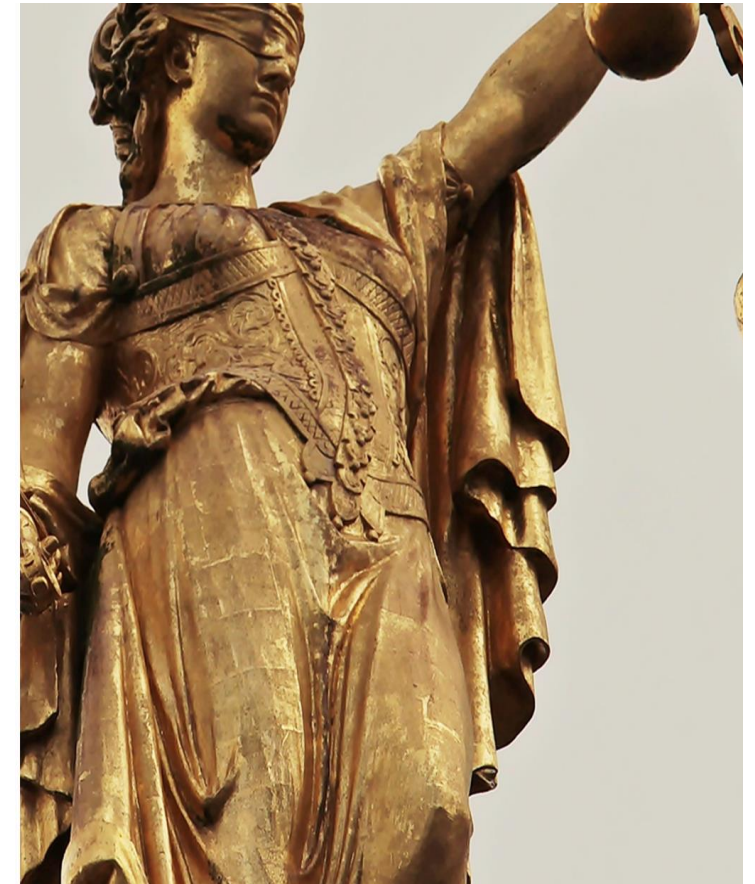


Texas
Healthy
at Home

- ▶ Statewide network
- ▶ Falls Prevention Coalition

The State of Elder Justice in Texas

- ▶ Elder financial exploitation is a significant concern with a link to higher 5-year mortality rates.
- ▶ Texas ranked third in the U.S. in losses to elder fraud in 2022 with over \$243 million reported.
- ▶ Texas has the third-largest older adult population in the U.S. with over 4.2 million adults aged 65 or older.



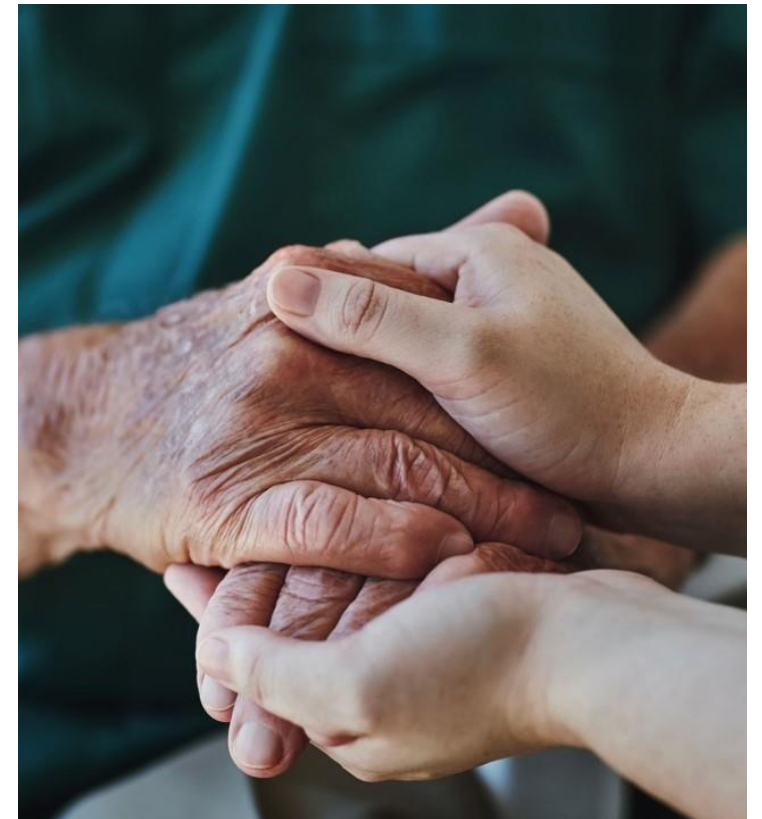
Definition of Exploitation

- ▶ The illegal or improper act or process of the alleged perpetrator using, or attempting to use, the resources of the client, including the client's Social Security number or other identifying information, for monetary or personal benefit, profit, or gain without the informed consent of the client.

Texas Administrative Code (TAC Rule §705.107)

Financial Exploitation: Why Are the Elderly Often Victimized?

- ▶ They may be lonelier.
- ▶ Typically trusting.
- ▶ Less aware of the kinds of fraud that can take place.
- ▶ Suffering from cognitive impairment.
- ▶ More likely to have money and assets than their younger counterparts of the same race/ethnicity.
- ▶ Likely to protect the perpetrator.



Risk Factors

Who is most at risk?

- ▶ Older Americans control 85% of liquid assets



Socially Isolated



Rely on friends or family to handle finances



Recently lost loved one, especially if that person handled household finances



Lives with a cognitive impairment, memory issues or other disabilities



Older Adult Financial Exploitation Statistics

- ▶ **1 out of 5** older adults have been victims of financial exploitation.
- ▶ **1 out of 44** are reported.



National Center for State and Tribal Elder Justice Coalitions

2024 – 2 Year Grant Funding

- Create a multi-disciplinary statewide coalition, including the three nationally recognized Tribes in Texas.
- Create an awareness/education event in 2025 for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.



National Center for State and Tribal
Elder Justice Coalitions

What is the Texas Elder Justice Coalition?

- ▶ Texas Elder Justice Coalition is a network of Texas professionals from multiple fields and disciplines working together to end financial exploitation of older adults in Texas. Our work focuses on education, advocacy, accountability and collaboration with state and community partners to ensure that older adults age with dignity and financial security.



Project Design



- ✓ Identify and recruit multidisciplinary coalition members.
- ✓ Schedule and coordinate monthly coalition meetings.
- Engage a nonprofit consultant for organizational development.
- ✓ Develop a strategic plan created by coalition members.
- ✓ Create a coalition website and online marketing plan.
- ✓ Form workgroups to carry out critical tasks.
- Provide bilingual, virtual trainings on preventing mistreatment of older adults

Committees

- ▶ **Collaboration:** To foster partnership and collaboration among diverse stakeholders involved in financial justice for older adults by coordinating efforts, sharing resources, and promoting communication
- ▶ **Professional Education:** To develop and implement education plan to enhance knowledge and skills of multidisciplinary professionals working with older adults equipping them to effectively identify and respond to financial exploitation of older adults
- ▶ **Older Adult Financial Exploitation Awareness, Education and Services:** To empower older adults to avoid financial exploitation, scams and fraud, while also advocating for policies and programs that enhance the well-being and safety of older adults.
- ▶ **Resources:** To identify and mobilize resources to support the activities of the Texas Elder Justice Coalition by securing funding for coalition activities, leveraging existing resources within the state and providing research to identify gaps in data and services to justify funding.



Financial Exploitation Looks Like (Before):

**Deception, coercion or
pressure**

**Fraud, blackmail,
accumulating debt, or
stealing money or
assets**

**Online, email,
telephone, mail, or in
person**

**Can involve grooming
(perpetrators may seek to
establish a relationship)**



Financial Exploitation Looks Like (During):

**Prevents the client from
speaking or seeing
visitors, friends or family**

**Anger or indifference,
aggressive behavior
toward the client**

**History of substance
abuse, mental illness,
criminal behavior, or
family violence**

**Lack of affection towards
the client**



Financial Exploitation Looks Like (After):

**Ashamed,
embarrassed**

Withdrawn, depressed

**Seriously affects
standard of living**

**Linked to higher 5-year
mortality rates**



Two Types of Perpetrators

Scams & Fraud:
Strangers,
organized crime



**Financial
Exploitation:**
Family caregivers,
new “friends”



Loss By Older Adults Per Year

- ▶ Adults over age 60 in the U.S. lose approximately **\$28 billion** per year to perpetrators of financial exploitation.



Thank You!

How you can get involved:

1. Keep learning about financial exploitation, scams and fraud.
2. Share with your family and friends.
3. Encourage victims to report.
4. Remove stigma of reporting by supporting the victim.



Save the Date

Save the Date

Wednesday, 11 June 2025 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Fort Worth, Texas

Financial Exploitation:
Awareness, Prevention & Action

Summit

 TEXAS
ELDER
JUSTICE
COALITION

txelderjustice.org/events for details

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