



The Silent Crisis: Navigating Financial Exploitation and the Rising Costs of Care in Long-Term Settings

PRESENTED BY: JOSHUA C.P. REAMS, B.A., J.D.
ELDER LAW ATTORNEY, VA ACCREDITED, NAELA
PARTNER - AHRENS DEANGELI LAW GROUP LLP

The Client Landscape is Changing

- Over 62.2 Million Americans were 65 years of age or older in 2025.
 - *(Vintage 2024 Population Estimates – U.S. Census Bureau)*
- 11 States now have more elderly than children.
 - *(U.S. CB Press Release Number: CB25-99)*
- Life Expectancy:
 - Women 81.1 years
 - Men 75.8 years
 - *NCHS Data Brief No. 521, December 2024*



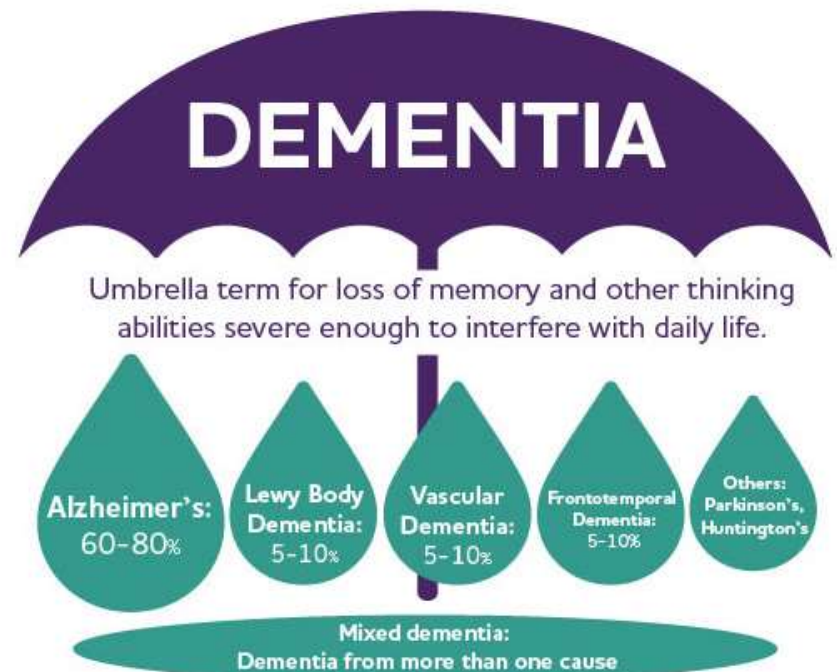
Decline in Mental Awareness/Acuity



Over 7 million people, ages sixty-five and older are living with Alzheimer's.
\$384 Billion in Care Costs for 2025.



By 2050 this number will double.
The number of people with younger-onset Alzheimer's disease is estimated to be around 200,000.



Defining Financial Exploitation

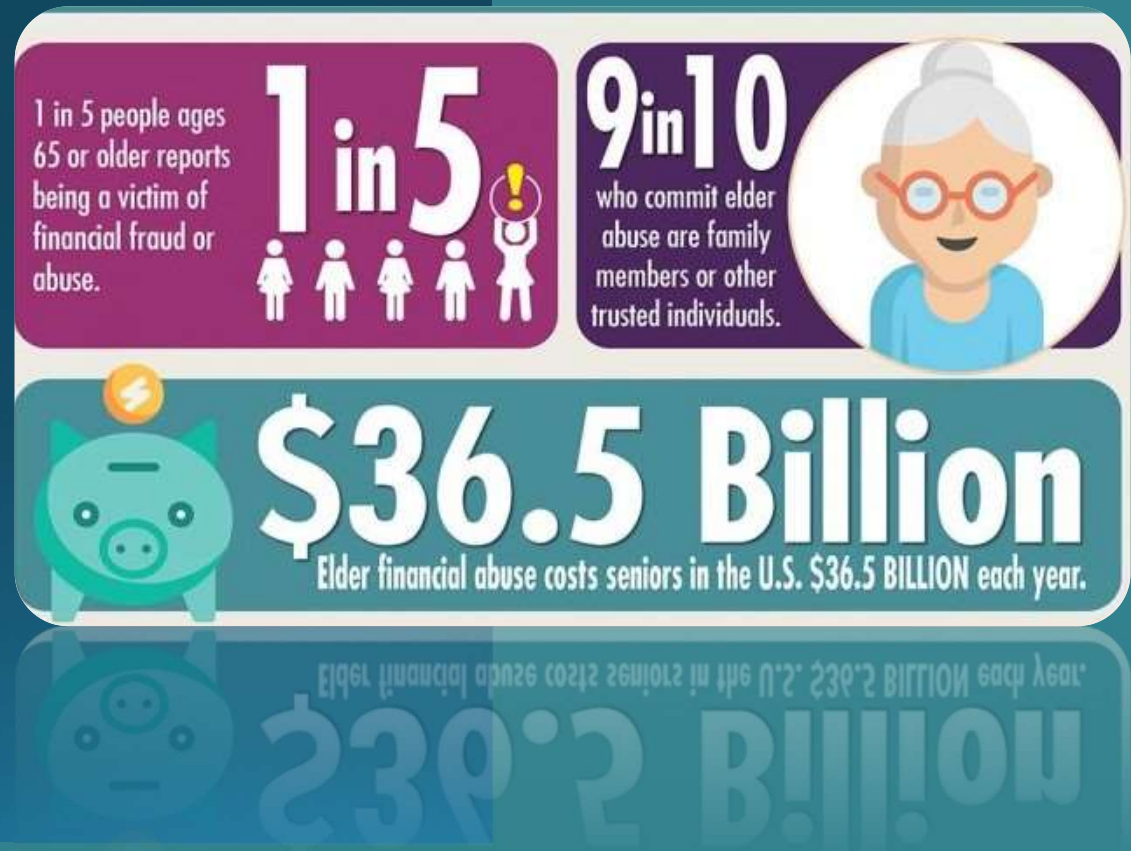
When rising costs meet vulnerable populations, "The Silent Crisis" of theft and manipulation often follows behind closed doors.

Financial Elder Abuse

Precise statistics on the amount of elder abuse that occurs are unavailable.

For every (1) case of financial elder exploitation or abuse reported, it is estimated there are (25) more cases that go unreported.

Recent estimates show 39.6% of Americans 65 years of age or older are victims of financial abuse.



VECTORS OF EXPLOITATION



PoA Abuse

Fiduciaries misusing their authority to transfer assets or change beneficiaries for personal gain.



Theft by Proxy

Unscrupulous caregivers charging for services never rendered or stealing personal property.



Undue Influence

Isolating the elder to coerce financial "gifts" under emotional duress or fear of abandonment.



Informal Scams

"New friends" or distant relatives appearing suddenly to "manage" complex LTC payments.

THE VULNERABILITY PARADIGM

- Isolation and cognitive decline are the primary catalysts for exploitation. In long-term care, the transition from independence to dependency creates a "blind spot" in financial oversight.
- Rising costs force families to tap into retirement assets quickly, creating a chaotic environment where unauthorized transactions go unnoticed for months.

RECOGNIZING THE RED FLAGS

-  **Atypical Activity:** Large ATM withdrawals or wires from previously dormant accounts.
-  **New "Advisors":** Sudden appearance of new "best friends" wanting to accompany elders to the bank.
-  **Mail Diversion:** Bank statements suddenly redirected to a caregiver's home address.
-  **Unpaid Bills:** Notices of eviction or service cutoff despite sufficient funds.
-  **Signature Discrepancies:** Forged or shaky signatures on checks or legal amendments.
-  **Confusion:** Elder is unable to explain recent financial transfers or legal changes.

The Economic Landscape of Care

Understanding the financial pressures that leave seniors and families vulnerable to exploitation in evolving healthcare settings.

Estate Planning & Long-Term Care Today

- Odds of your home having a fire: 1 in 1,200 (1/10 of 1%)
- Odds of totaling your car: 5 in 1,200 (1/2 of 1%)
- Odds of being hospitalized: 105 in 1,200 (8%)
- Odds of needing long-term care: 720 in 1,200 (60%)
- Odds of needing long-term care if you reach age 65: 70%

*MetLife Market Survey of NH and HCC, 2004



The Skyrocketing Cost of Care

- The average cost of care in Idaho depends on the requisite level of care.
- The average cost of a skilled nursing facility as determined by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare is \$10,901.03 per month.
- For skilled nursing homes specifically, long-term residents average a stay of two years or more, according to the National Care Planning Council.
- The Administration on Aging, however, reports that women on average need long-term care services and support for 3.7 years, while men average 2.2. years.



About 70% of people
age 65+ will need some type
of long-term care services
during their lifetime.

THE SKYROCKETING COST OF CARE

\$129K+ \$74,400 7.9%

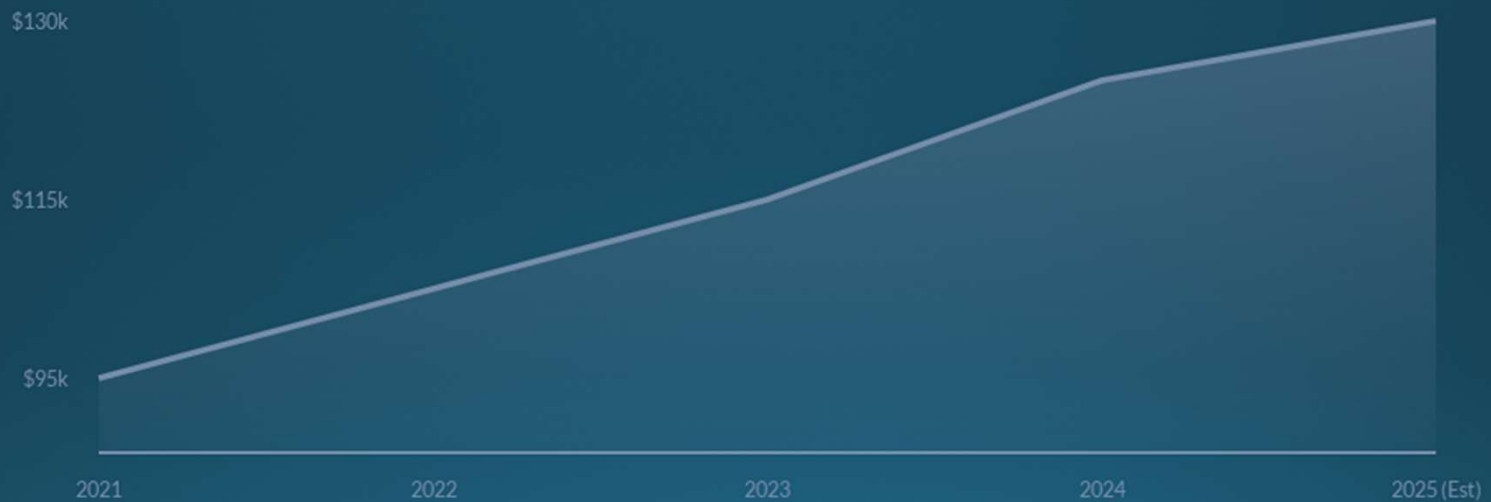
Private Nursing Home (Annual)

Assisted Living Median

Home Care Inflation (YoY)

Source: CareScout 2025 Cost of Care Survey. Costs are outpacing senior household income growth by 2x.

LONG-TERM CARE PRICE ESCALATION



National median nursing home costs have risen over 16% since 2022, fueled by labor shortages and post-pandemic inflation.

Estate Planning Essentials

- Last Will and Testament
- Health Care Power of Attorney
- Advanced Directive (Living Will)
- Financial Power of Attorney
- Revocable Living Trusts
- Asset Protection Trusts



- You should review your documents every 3-5 years.
- You should review and update your documents after a death of a loved one, when you move to another state, and after a major medical event/diagnosis.



E L D E R L A W *at*
A H R E N S D E A N G E L I
L A W G R O U P



Joshua C. P. Reams
Partner / Elder Law Attorney
VA Accredited / NAELA
Ahrens DeAngeli Law Group
(208) 387-0729
jreams@adlawgroup.com

Thank You!

Please feel free to reach out
directly with anytime via
telephone or email with
questions.