

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Steve Stern

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR
SIXTEENTH DISTRICT
1842 E. Jericho Tpke. Suite P
HUNTINGTON, NY 11743



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, January 7, 2013

CONTACT: **Deborah Harris**
LEGISLATIVE AIDE
OFFICE: 631-854-5100
deborah.harris@suffolkcountyny.gov

LEGISLATOR STEVE STERN WARNS SENIORS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO BE AWARE OF SIGNS OF FINANCIAL ABUSE

Vulnerable Members of our Community Targeted

HUNTINGTON, NY – Legislator Steve Stern (D-Huntington, 16th L.D), Chairman of the Veterans and Seniors Committee, is urging seniors and their families to be alert to signs of financial abuse, an increasingly common form of fraud targeting vulnerable people. Cases of fraud are often under-reported, difficult to prosecute and take many forms. As many as five million older adults are victims of elder abuse each year and often financial abuse occurs at the hands of someone the victims knows and trusts.

Here are some signs of financial abuse to look out for:

- You notice financial activity that is inconsistent with your financial history, including unexplained credit card activity, newly authorized signers on accounts or unauthorized withdrawals;
- You are confused or uncertain about recent financial transactions or you have been asked to sign papers that you do not understand;
- There have been recent changes to your property titles, deeds, refinanced mortgages, Power of Attorney documents, wills, trust or other documents that you do not understand or did not authorize.

If you become aware of any such transactions that you believe to be fraudulent, you should contact your local police department, the Suffolk County Office for the Aging at (631) 853-8200 and speak with family members or a senior advocate for assistance.

“It is important for seniors and those who love and care for them to carefully monitor financial records and transactions to protect seniors from unscrupulous scam artists who target older Americans,” Legislator Stern said. “These are not easy conversations to have, but I encourage family members to discuss these important issues so that fraud can be prevented or caught early.”