

# The Hidden Costs of Financial Abuse and Fraud in Domestic Violence

PART 2 OF THE *BACK TO  
BASICS* WEBINAR SERIES



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026  
2-3:30PM EASTERN



National Resource Center  
on Domestic Violence



**FINRA**  
Investor Education  
FOUNDATION

*Featuring:*



**KIM CAMACHO**

National Center for  
Victims of Crime



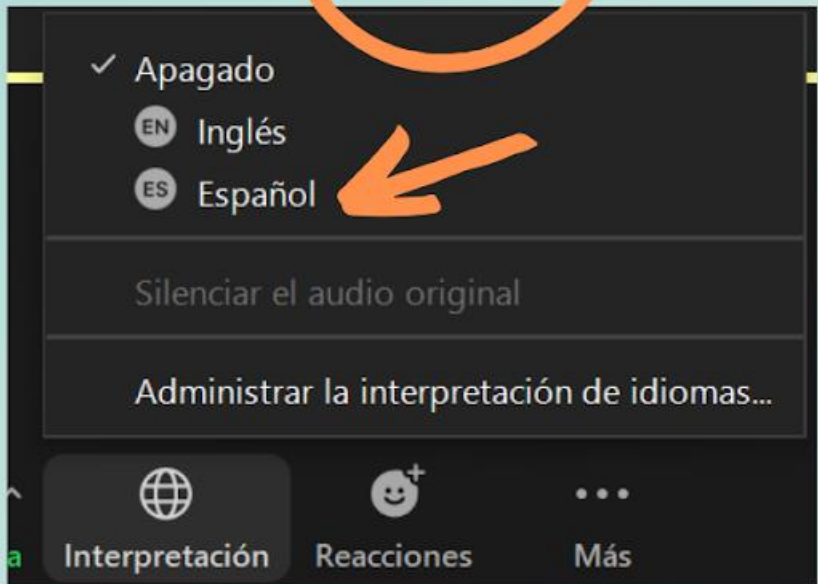
**ROBERT MASCIO**

FINRA

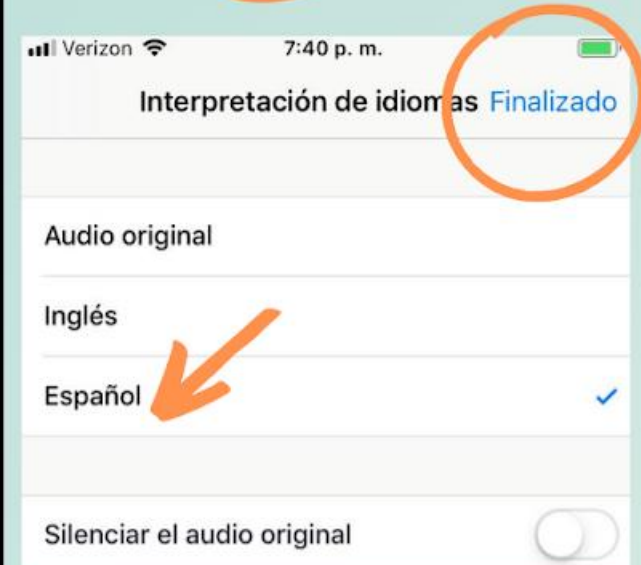
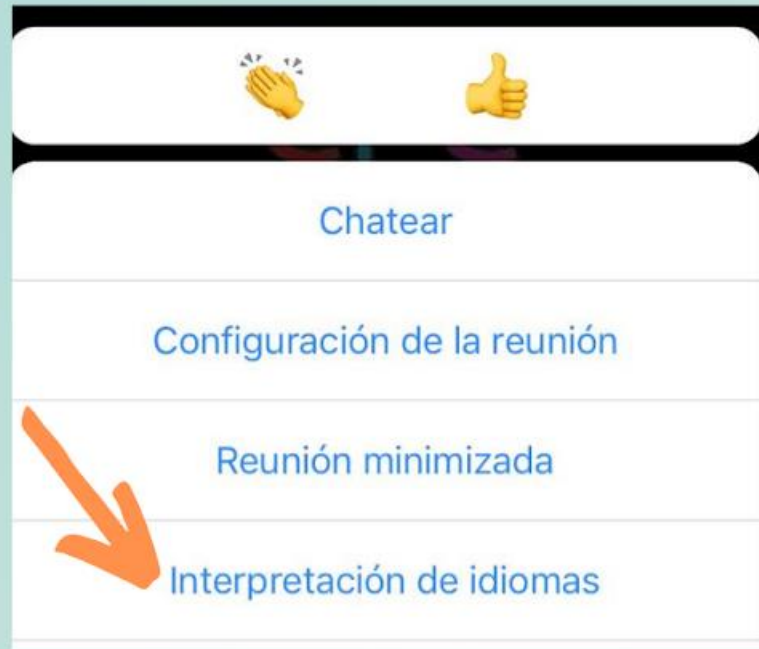
# PARA ACCEDER A LA INTERPRETACIÓN



Por computador



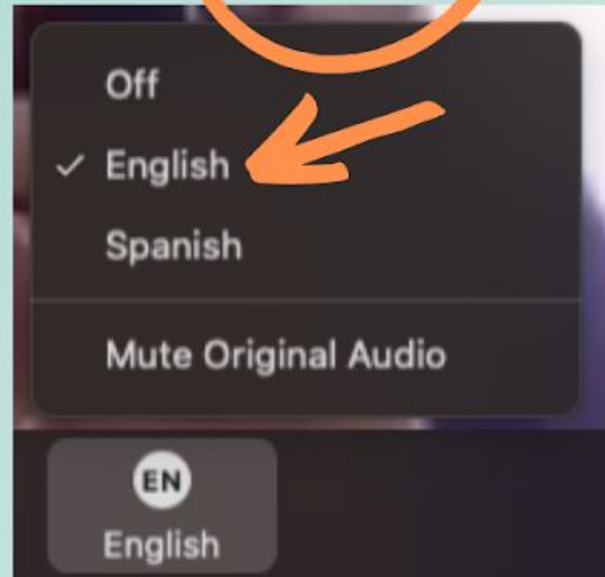
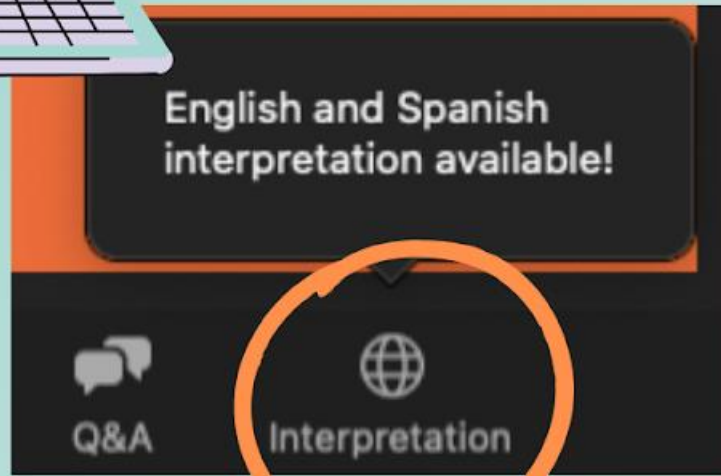
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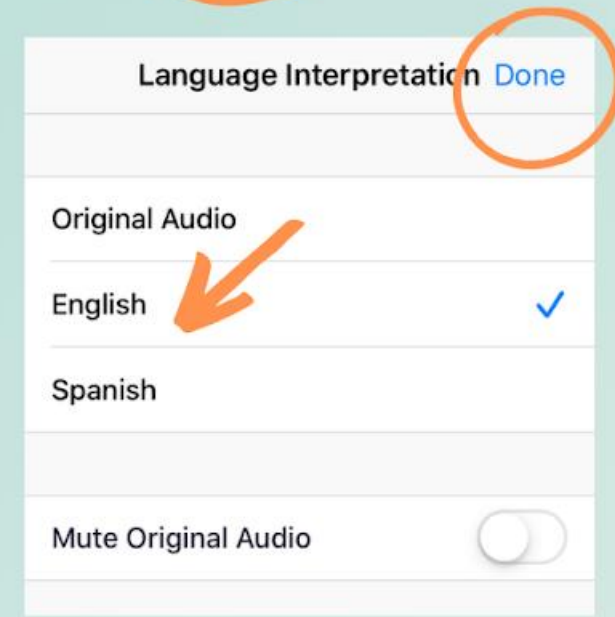
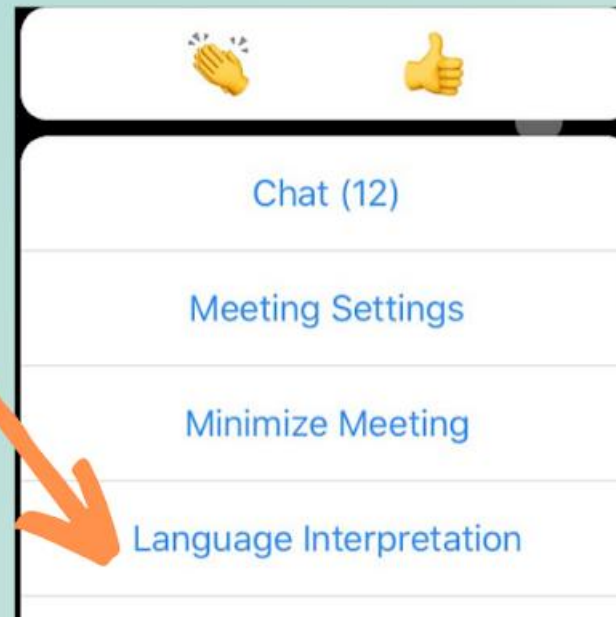
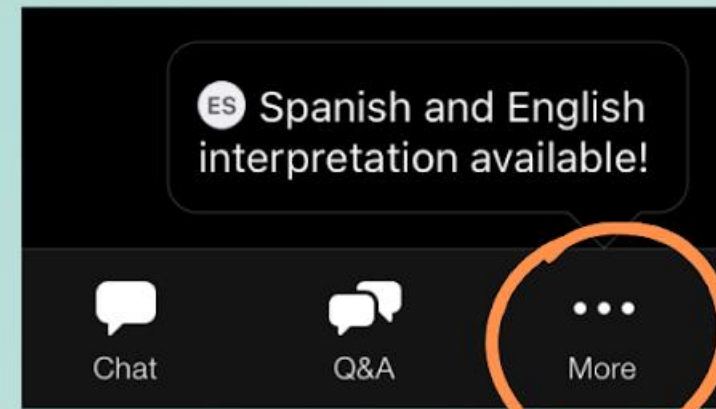
# TO ACCESS INTERPRETATION



Via computer



Via smartphone



## OUR MISSION

**To strengthen and  
transform efforts to end  
domestic violence**

The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence provides a wide range of free, comprehensive, and individualized technical assistance, training, and specialized resource materials.

# WEBINAR HOUSEKEEPING

This presentation is being recorded.

Live transcriptions /closed captions are available.

Please submit your questions using the Q&A feature.

We have limited use of the chat function. It is difficult to translate in real time and can be inaccessible to assistive devices.

Please reach out to our staff if you are experiencing ongoing technical issues.

# Domestic Violence and Financial Fraud



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# Using the Chat, Tell Us About Yourself

- Name
- Your role/agency
- Where you are joining us from



# NCVC Mission

The mission of the National Center for Victims of Crime is to forge a national commitment to help victims. We are dedicated to serving individuals, families, and communities harmed by crime.





# Financial Industry Regulatory Authority



**FINRA**

- Self-regulatory organization for U.S. broker-dealers
- Dual Mission
  - Investor Protection
  - Market Integrity

**FINRA  
Foundation**



- Research and outreach
- Financial capability for all Americans
  - Build Wealth
  - Protect Wealth



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# Today's Objectives

1. Understand the intersections of financial fraud, financial abuse, and intimate partner violence.
2. Explore the emotional and financial impact fraud has on victims.
3. Identify tangible steps, tools and resources for victim service professionals when assisting victims.



# Poll

How often do you support DV victims/survivors with financial abuse or crimes?

Always

Sometimes

Rarely

Never



# The Intersections: Financial Fraud, Financial Abuse and Domestic Violence



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# Domestic Violence

- **1 in 2 women** and **1 in 4 men** have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking victimization by an intimate partner in their lifetime. (The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2016/2017)
- Financial abuse occurs in **99%** of domestic violence cases. (NNEDV)



# Financial Fraud vs. Financial Abuse

- **Financial Fraud:** Intentionally deceiving a victim by misrepresenting, concealing or omitting facts about promised goods, services or benefits for the purpose of financial gain.
- **Financial Abuse:** A tactic used to gain and maintain power and control in a relationship.



# Types of Financial Abuse

- Preventing a partner from working.
- Sabotaging work or employment opportunities such as taking a victim's car keys or causing disruptions at their workplace.
- Controlling how money is spent or restricting access to money.
- Refusing to pay bills and ruining the victim's' credit score.



# Types of Financial Fraud

- Stealing the victim's identity, property, or inheritance.
- Opening a credit card in the survivor's name.
- Forcing the victim to write bad checks or file fraudulent tax returns.
- Filing false insurance claims.
- Forcing the victim to turn over their public benefits.



# Tactics



## Phantom Riches

Risk Free  
Gauranteed  
High Returns



## Social Consensus

Everyone I know  
is investing in it!



## Source Credibility

Degree's  
Experience  
Affiliations



## Reciprocity

Free Lunch  
Deals  
Big Break



## Scarcity

Going Fast  
Limited Number  
Only Today

# Factors Related to Engagement

## Higher Engagement Levels

Financial Insecurity  
Social Isolation  
Online Contact

## Lower Engagement Levels

Knowledge of scams



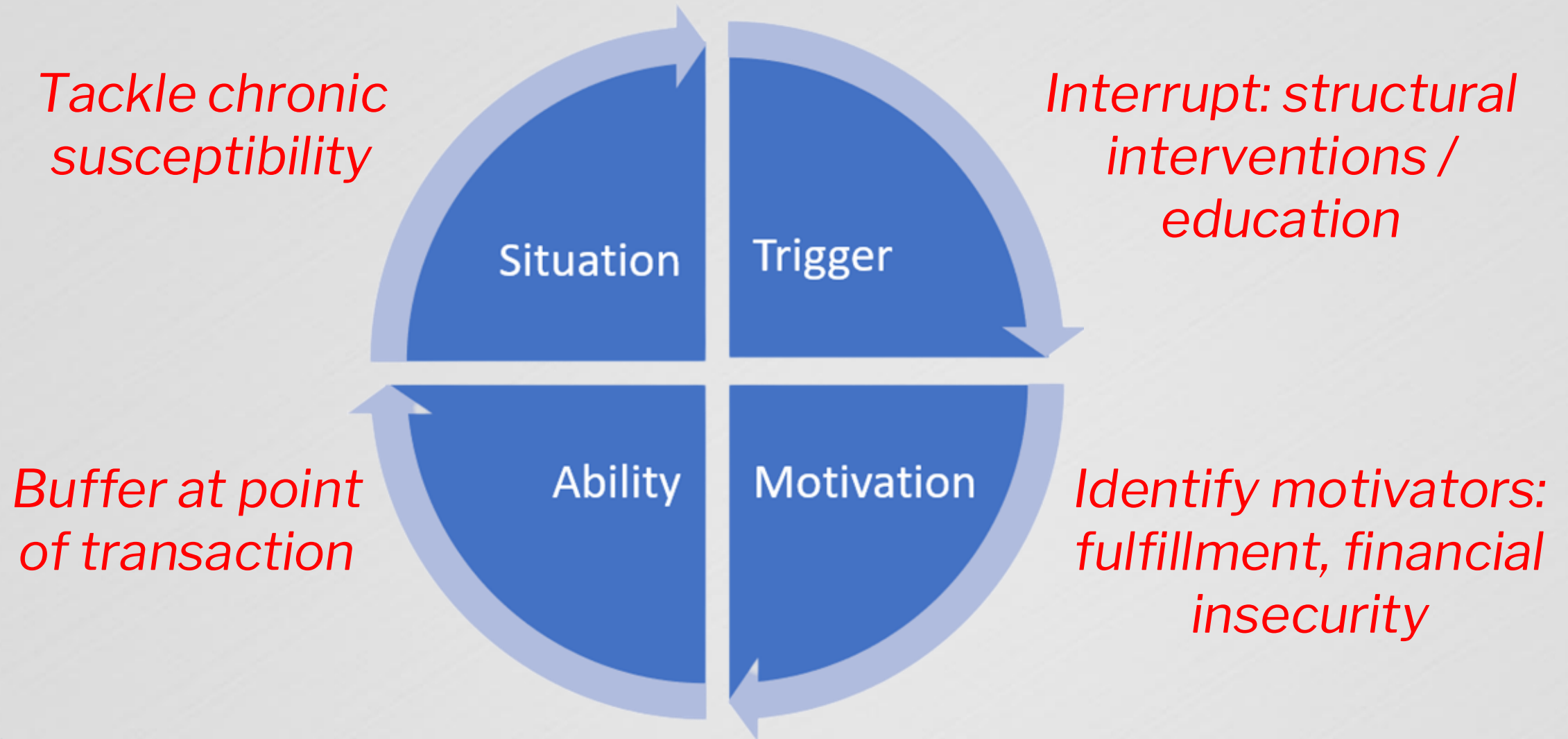
# Social Isolation

## Among respondents who engaged:

- Those who **did not have anyone available** to discuss it with were more likely to lose money.
- Those who **chose not** to discuss the solicitation with anyone while it was happening were more likely to lose money.



# How Can We Disrupt the Scam Cycle?



# The Impact

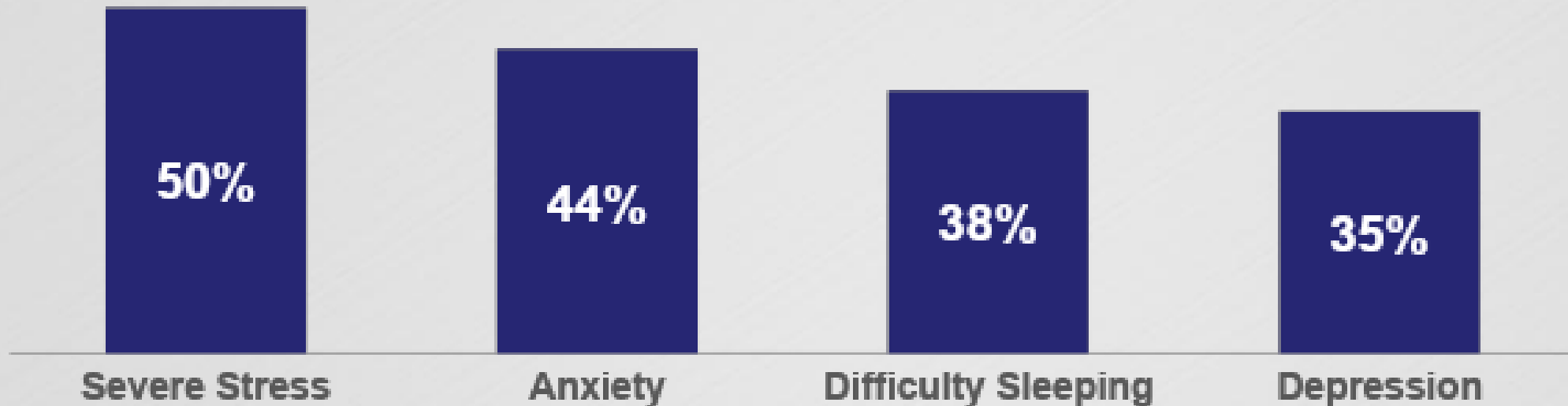


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# Non-Financial Impacts



Nearly **2/3** of victims reported experiencing at least one serious non-financial cost of fraud



# Is Fraud Victimization Traumatic?

## Financial Fraud Journey Map: Timeline of Emotional Processing

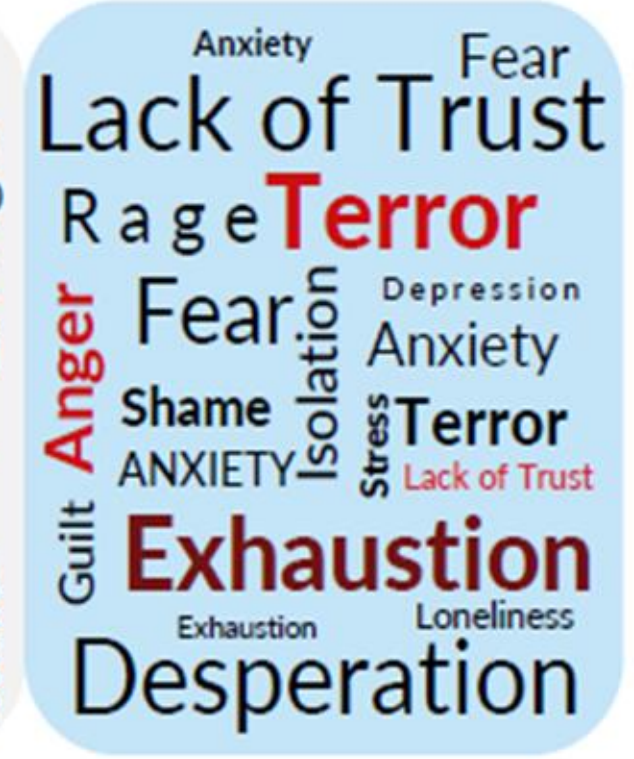
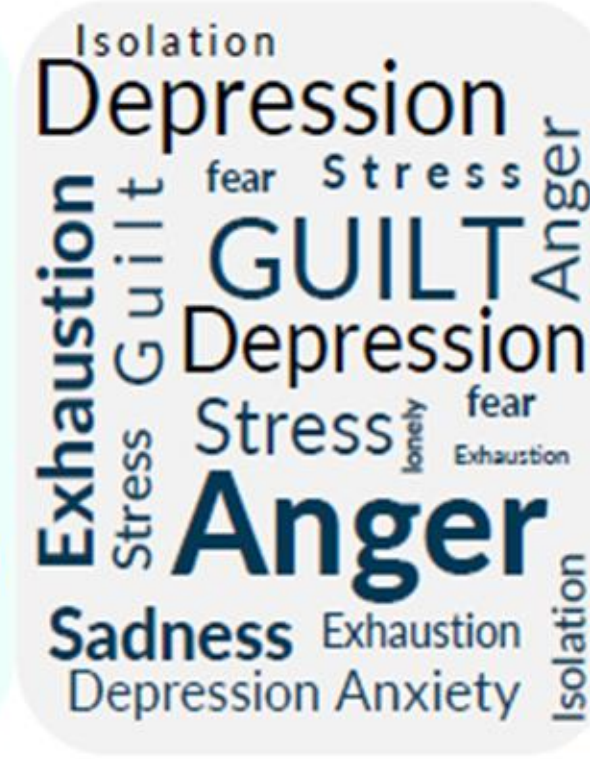


0-3 Months  
Post-Fraud

3-6 Months

6-9 Months

9-12 Months



# Impacts of Financial Fraud & Abuse

- Financial loss
- Credit score
- Legal issues
- Emotional
- Barriers to leaving



# Language Matters

## How We React to Property Crimes

**“They didn’t deserve that.”**

**“I want to help.”**

## How We React to Fraud

**“I can’t believe you fell for that.”**

**“Why would you give them so much money?”**



# Say This...Not That

## Instead of this:

If it's too good to be true....

Why did you give a stranger  
your money?



Implies blame;  
Inspires shame

## Say this:

Scammers use powerful, emotional  
tactics.

What they say to deceive you and  
build trust?



Shows empathy;  
Empowers victim



# Responding to Financial Fraud and Abuse

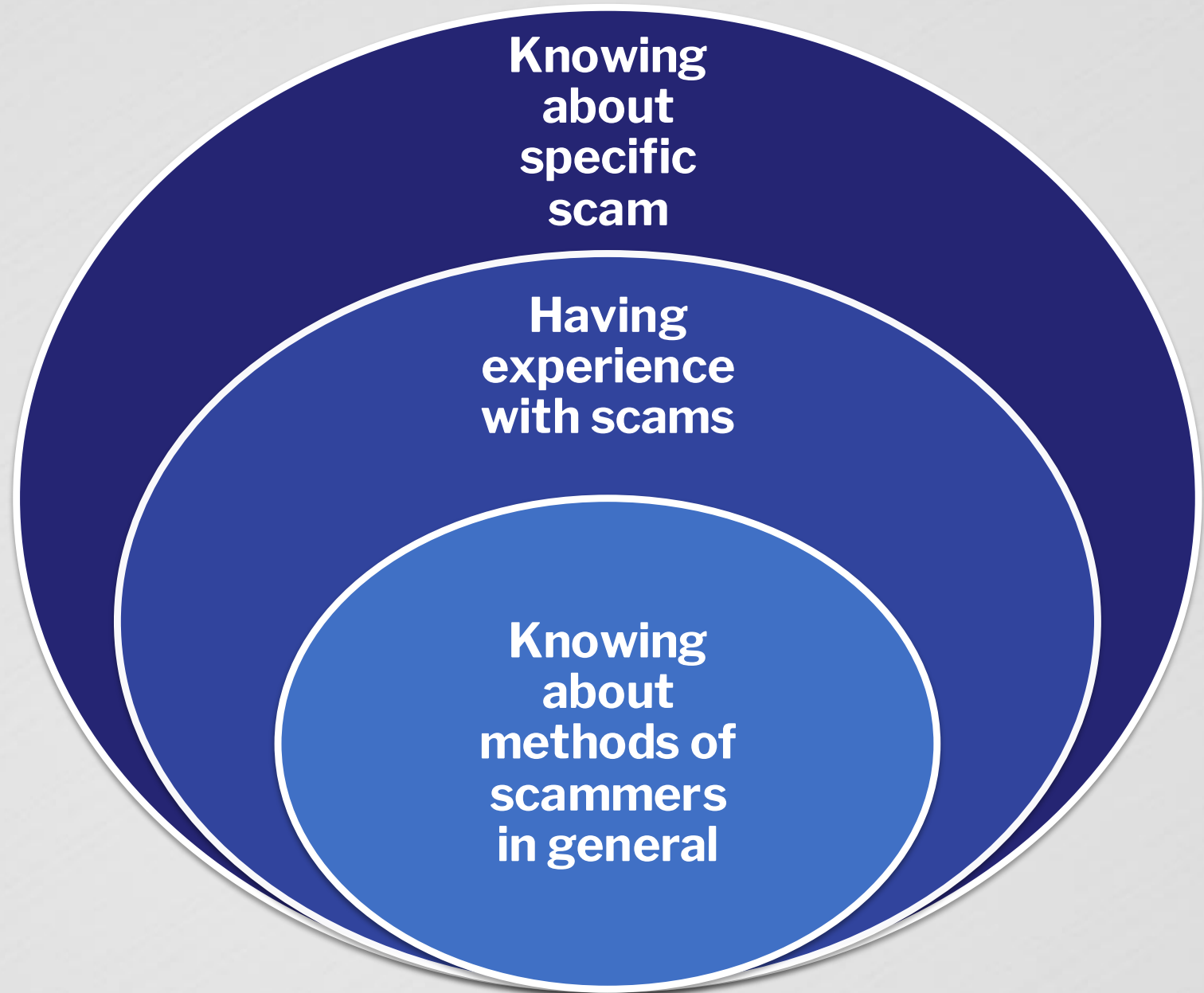


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# Knowledge is Power

## BBB Scam Tracker Research:

What reduced the likelihood of engaging?



# Responding to Financial Fraud

- Being prepared
- Emotional support
- Setting realistic expectations
- Safety planning
- Financial empowerment



# Safety Planning Considerations

- Who has access to accounts
- Documentation
- Monitor credit
- Protect accounts



# Responding to Financial Fraud

- **Report the fraud**
  - Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at 1-877-ID-THEFT
  - Social Security Administration Fraud Hotline 1-800-269-0271
  - File a police report
- **Credit Freeze/Fraud Alert**
- **Disputing Fraudulent Activity or Correcting Credit Report**



# Collaboration & Coordination

Join or connect with existing **MDT** or **FAST** teams

- AG Consumer Protection
- State Crime Victim Coalition
- Adult Protective Services
- Area Agency on Aging
- Better Business Bureau
- FTC, CFPB, other federal agencies
- Civil Attorneys
- LEO, Prosecutors, Triad etc.



# Victim Recovery Checklists

## TAKING ACTION:

### Mass Marketing and Other Fraud Victim Recovery Checklist

Fake checks, foreign lotteries, and sweepstakes schemes are just a few examples of mass marketing fraud. These schemes are characterized by the use of false promises of cash prizes, services, goods, or good works in exchange for fees, donations, or purchases. Scams may be conducted through the mail, telephone, email, television, or any other form of mass or individual communication. If you are a victim of this type of financial crime, you may be coping with the aftermath of a compromised identity, damaged credit, financial loss, concern for your physical safety, and a painful range of emotions including anger, fear, and frustration.

Full financial recovery may be difficult to achieve; however, it is critical that you report the crime as quickly as possible. Reporting any financial fraud, no matter how small, helps law enforcement, regulators, and government agencies put a stop to the fraud, prevent the victimization of more consumers, and pursue the criminals committing the fraud.

Very often, perpetrators will dispose of your money immediately after taking it. You may never get your money back. That said, your recovery is about more than lost money. It's about protecting your future financial health and assets and finding ways for you to recover emotionally from the crime.

We recommend taking the steps below to reclaim power from the fraudsters and help you move forward.

#### STEP 1 - Create a Mass-Marketing or Other Fraud File

Start by collecting all relevant documentation concerning the fraud in one file that is kept in a secure location. The file should include:

- a contact sheet of the perpetrator's name, mail and email addresses, telephone numbers, and website address, as well as any of the fraudster's purported regulatory registration numbers;
- a timeline of events, which may span many years;
- the police report, if any;

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1 TAKE ACTION: MASS MARKETING AND OTHER FRAUD VICTIM RECOVERY LIST

## TAKING ACTION:

### Investment Fraud Victim Recovery Checklist

Financial fraud is real and can be devastating. If you are a victim, you may be coping with the aftermath of a compromised identity, damaged credit, and financial loss, as well as a painful range of emotions including anger, fear, and frustration.

Full financial recovery may be difficult to achieve; however, it is critical that you report the crime as quickly as possible. Reporting any financial fraud, no matter how small, helps law enforcement, regulators, and government agencies put a stop to the fraud, prevent the victimization of more consumers, and pursue the criminals committing the fraud.

Very often, perpetrators will dispose of your money immediately after taking it. You may never get your money back. That said, your recovery is about more than lost money. It's about protecting your future financial health and assets and finding ways for you to recover emotionally from the crime.

We recommend taking the steps below to reclaim power from the fraudsters and help you move forward.

#### STEP 1 - Create an Investment Fraud File

Start by collecting all relevant documentation concerning the fraud in one file that is kept in a secure location. The file should include:

- a contact sheet of the perpetrator's name, mail and email addresses, telephone numbers, and website address, as well as any of the fraudster's purported regulatory registration numbers;
- a timeline of events, which may span many years;
- the police report, if any;
- your most recent credit report from all three credit reporting companies (see text box on following page);
- any evidence of the fraud or deception;
- logs of any phone conversations, with dates, names and phone numbers of any representatives with whom you spoke, and notes on what information they gave you, and

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1 TAKE ACTION: INVESTMENT FRAUD VICTIM RECOVERY LIST

## TAKING ACTION:

### Identity Theft Victim Recovery Checklist

The scope of identity theft often goes beyond an unauthorized credit card charge. Whether it is tax-related, child identity theft, or medical identity theft, **identity theft is a crime, and it can be devastating.** When your personal information has been stolen, you may be coping with the aftermath of a compromised identity, damaged credit, and financial loss, as well as a painful range of emotions including anger, fear, and frustration.

It is critical that you take immediate steps to stop and repair the damage caused by identity theft. Reporting the crime, no matter how small, helps law enforcement, regulators, and government agencies put a stop to the fraud, prevent the victimization of more consumers, and pursue the criminals.

Very often, perpetrators will dispose of your money immediately after taking it. You may never get your money back. That said, your recovery is about more than lost money. It's about taking steps to minimize the harm, protect your future financial health and assets, and recover emotionally from the crime.

We recommend taking the steps below to reclaim power from the fraudsters and help you move forward.

#### CREDIT CARD IDENTITY THEFT

The typical case of identity theft involves stolen credit cards or unauthorized charges on your credit card. If your credit card number was stolen or used fraudulently, you should:

- Contact the relevant bank or credit card companies to notify them of the theft and dispute fraudulent charges; and
- Carefully read account statements regularly to look for fraudulent charges.

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1 TAKE ACTION: IDENTITY THEFT VICTIM RECOVERY LIST

## TAKING ACTION:

### Mortgage and Lending Fraud Victim Recovery Checklist

Being scammed out of your home can be financially and emotionally devastating. If you are a victim, you may be coping with the aftermath of damaged credit and financial loss, as well as a painful range of emotions including anger, loss, and frustration.

It may be difficult to achieve full financial recovery or to avoid foreclosure; however, it is critical that you report the crime as quickly as possible. Reporting any financial fraud helps law enforcement, regulators, and government agencies put a stop to the fraud, prevent the victimization of more consumers, and pursue the criminals committing the fraud.

Very often, perpetrators will dispose of your money immediately after taking it. You may never get your money back. That said, your recovery is about more than lost money. It's about protecting your future financial health and assets and finding ways for you to recover emotionally from the crime.

We recommend taking the steps below to reclaim power from the fraudsters and help you move forward.

#### STEP 1 - Create a Lending Fraud File

Start by collecting all relevant documentation concerning the fraud in one file that is kept in a secure location.

The file should include:

- a contact sheet of the perpetrator's name, mail and email addresses, telephone numbers, and website address, as well as any of the fraudster's purported regulatory registration numbers;
- a timeline of events, which may span many years;
- the police report, if any;
- your most recent credit report from all three credit reporting companies (see Step 7);
- any evidence of the fraud or deception;

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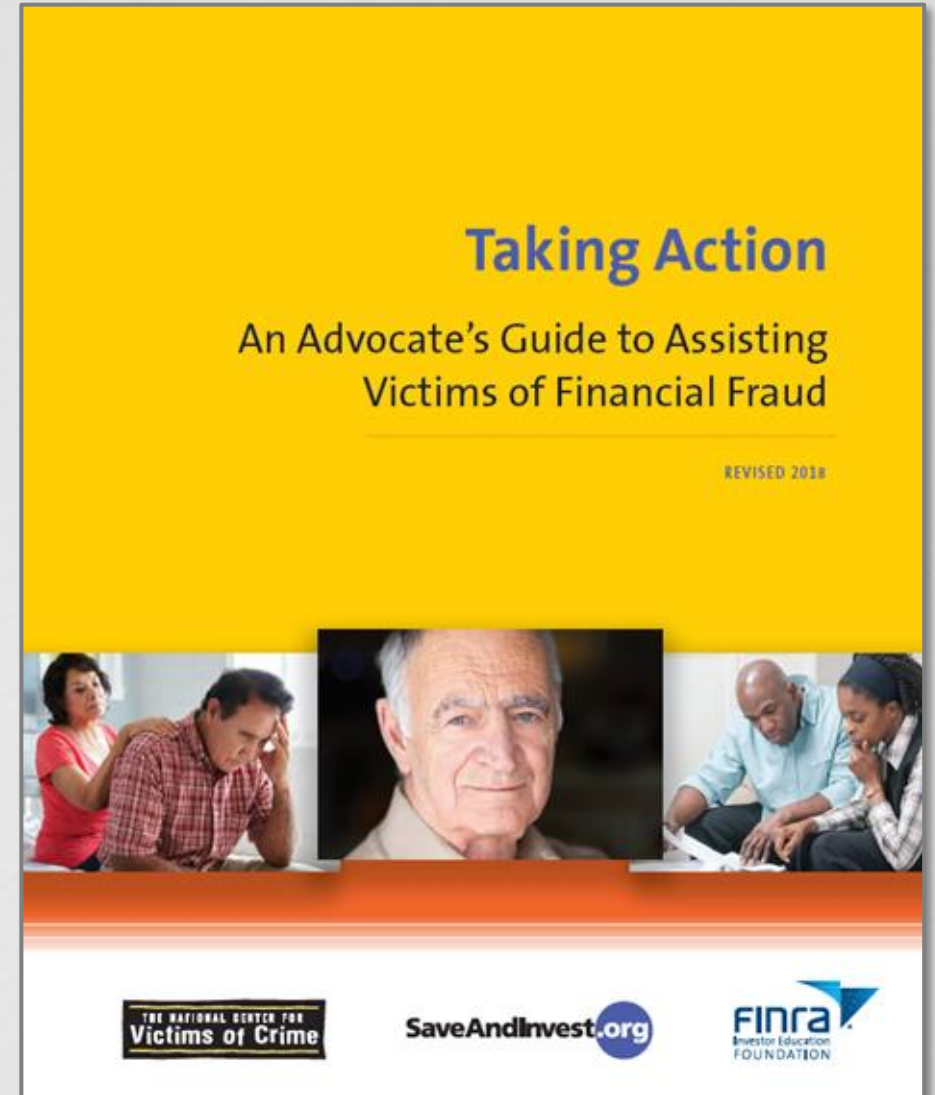
1 TAKE ACTION: MORTGAGE AND LENDING FRAUD VICTIM RECOVERY LIST



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# Taking Action Guide

- Supporting individuals who experienced fraud
- Understanding fraud types
- Prevention tips
- Resources by fraud type



# Resources



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# VictimConnect Resource Center

24/7 anonymous and confidential hotline and online resource map for all victims of crimes in the United States and its territories.

Call or Text: **1-855-4Victim**

Chat: **VictimConnect.org/chat**

Website: **VictimConnect.org**



# Support for Financial Fraud Survivors

## FREE Peer Support Program:

- Occurs monthly
- Available across country
- Led by trained peer support facilitator
- Safe place to share thoughts, concerns, and person experience
- Trauma informed approach



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## It's Not Your Fault:

### Empowerment After Financial Fraud

Many victims feel helpless after experiencing fraud. Not only do you have to overcome the financial loss, but you might also be experiencing a tremendous emotional impact.

#### Master Manipulators

Scammers are master manipulators. They use persuasive techniques and influence tactics based on psychology in order to defraud their target. If you have been victimized by financial fraud, you are not alone and among millions of individuals of all ages, education levels, and financial status who share this experience.

Some common emotions resulting from financial fraud are:

- Grief
- Shame
- Fear
- Guilt
- Anger
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Embarrassment
- Loss of trust in others
- Loss of a sense of security

#### Practice Self-Care



Have a toolbox of things you can do in a moment to relieve negative thoughts or emotions, such as deep breathing, a mantra, or going for a walk.



Engage in regular activities that you enjoy, such as hobbies or spending time with friends and family.



Have good boundaries. This means knowing your limits in what you do and say, as well as letting others know how you want to be treated.

#### Stay Connected

Adverse effects of fraud trauma like depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts can intensify due to isolation. To counteract this, stay engaged with your social network. Regularly spend time with family and friends. Even if you don't talk about your experience, this connection is vital. Also, consider connecting with peers who have undergone similar experiences. This peer support can provide a safe space for you to share your story, easing the process when you choose to discuss the experience with family and friends.

#### Focus on What You Can Control

Report the crime. Reach out for help from family, friends, other victims of fraud, or a mental health professional. Get educated on scams and psychological tactics scammers use to prevent re-victimization. Take your focus away from what happened and focus on your power to heal.

## Overcoming Shame & Blame

Many victims of fraud report feeling profound shame and self-blame. This is when our minds direct pain and anger inward, resulting in thoughts of hopelessness and sometimes even worthlessness. When it comes to addressing the impact of any trauma, including financial fraud victimization, overcoming these emotions is key to healing.

#### Practice Self-Compassion

Give yourself grace. Try saying encouraging and compassionate things to yourself instead of focusing on negative self-talk.

#### Accept Your Emotions

Recognizing what you are feeling can help you understand why you are feeling this way. With that understanding will come a power over your emotions that will ultimately decrease the intensity of the feelings.

#### Forgive Yourself

Write yourself a forgiveness letter and give yourself the permission and understanding to learn from the past. Use your experience to grow, then get rid of your letter as a symbol of the end of your self-blame.

Learn More: [www.giveanhour.org/financial-fraud](http://www.giveanhour.org/financial-fraud)

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# Support for Romance Scam Survivors

**FREE** Recovery Group by Cybercrime Support Network:

- 1-hour weekly sessions for 10 weeks
- A licensed counselor to facilitate the groups
- Guidance to support mental well-being
- Education on cybercrime and online safety
- Closed, monitored group communications



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# National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)

- [Independence Program](#) - provides credit-building microloans to survivors of financial abuse in all U.S. states, territories, and the District of Columbia to help them build or establish credit.
- Technical Assistance and Online Resources
- <https://nnedv.org/>



# FINRA Resources

FINRA Investor Education FOUNDATION

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## The Networks We Strengthen

The FINRA Foundation empowers its partners to reach people where they live, work and learn. It's about building capacity and nurturing supportive networks that stand ready and well equipped to guide Americans through life's financial decisions and challenges.

### Empowering Fraud Fighters

From law enforcement to consumer advocates and skillful volunteers, the FINRA Foundation and its partners have trained thousands to detect, prevent and respond to financial fraud. The training is turnkey and grounded in research. It puts the right tools in the hands of those in a position to protect consumers and take appropriate action when fraud does occur. The FINRA Foundation's financial fraud fighting network is national and growing ever larger.

## Taking Action

### An Advocate's Guide to Assisting Victims of Financial Fraud

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## FINRA Investor Education FOUNDATION

### Fighting Fraud 101

#### Smart Tips for Investors

## FINRA Securities Helpline for Seniors™



[www.finrafoundation.org/fraudfighter](http://www.finrafoundation.org/fraudfighter)

# Contact Information

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# Connect with us



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# Thank you!



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