

AARP Foundation ElderWatch is a consumer protection initiative in conjunction with the Colorado Attorney General and the AARP Foundation, whose mission is to ensure that no older person is left to suffer, alone and in silence, at the hands of those who exploit them. AARP Foundation ElderWatch fights the financial exploitation of older adults through education and outreach, data collection and the provision of assistance in connecting victims with the appropriate agencies and community resources. The program provides information to state law enforcement offices, human services, regulatory agencies and organizations assisting older adults.

What We Provide:

- A toll-free statewide hotline, tied into the Colorado Consumer line (800-222-444, option 2), that allows older Coloradans to connect with an AARP Foundation ElderWatch specialist to discuss their situation, ask questions or receive assistance in connecting with the appropriate agency or resource.
- The ability to connect with a peer (an ElderWatch volunteer) who is an expert in the area of fraud, scams and financial exploitation, and who can both empathize with the caller and provide the tough-love reality check that is often required in order for the victim to move forward.
- An anonymous way for a person to ask about fraud and scams, thereby removing some of the stigma associated with reporting these incidents.
- Educational materials, including a variety of brochures, monthly Smart Tips posters/emails and other updates on financial exploitation, which can be provided to groups or individuals at no cost.
- Community presentations, delivered by ElderWatch staff or AARP Foundation Fraud Fighter volunteers, which focus on recognizing, refusing and reporting identity theft, investment fraud and a variety of other scams.

What We Do Not Provide:

- Legal advice or representation (although our volunteers are well-trained on where to refer people looking for legal advice, depending on their circumstances).
- In-person consultations (we do not have the ability to meet with people in our office – they must call the toll-free hotline: 800-222-4444, option 2).
- Miracles (we are often the last resort for people who have tried every other agency. While our volunteers sometimes have the time to listen to a story and empathize with the victim, they are unable to wave a magic wand and solve the caller's problems).