



## **Strategies for Effective Elder Abuse Investigations** **Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>**

Join renowned experts in the field of Elder Abuse as we share valuable insights, best practices, and cutting-edge techniques in identifying, investigating, and prosecuting elder abuse cases.

### **Double Tree by Hilton Columbia**



5485 Twin Knolls Road  
Columbia, MD 21045

## **Information and Registration**

<https://www.elderabuseconference.info>

Event Sponsor: Center for Elder Justice and Education, Inc.

<https://elderjusticeandeducation.org>

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# Event Agenda

**Monday, November 18, 2024**

**7:30 AM - 9:00 AM**

**Name Badge Pickup & Information Desk, Buffet Breakfast**

**9:00 AM - 9:15 AM**

**Welcome**

Speakers: Andre Lingham, Dr. Calvin B. Ball III

**9:15 AM - 10:15 AM**

**Lessons Learned on a 20 Year Journey Prosecuting Elder Abuse Cases**

Speaker: Paul Greenwood

Former career prosecutor Paul Greenwood will draw upon his 22 years of prosecuting serious elder abuse cases to share important lessons that he has learned in the courtroom. He will describe some of the barriers to successful investigation that may explain why many legitimate complaints of abuse, neglect or exploitation never end up in court. Greenwood will also emphasize the importance of networking to underscore his belief that effective methods to counteract this escalating crime call for a multi-disciplinary approach. Throughout the presentation Greenwood will share practical examples of what worked and will deliver a message of optimism and a challenge to energize communities in finding solutions to the "crime of the 21st century."

**10:15 AM - 10:30 AM**

**Break**

**10:30 AM - 11:45 AM**

**When Injuries Speak: Investigating Abuse/Neglect of a Vulnerable Adult**

Speaker: Maryland Office of the Attorney General

Abuse/neglect of vulnerable adults is one of the most underreported crimes across this country. Every day in community settings, nursing homes, assisted living and developmentally disabled group homes, abuse and neglect are occurring. When reports of possible neglect or abuse is made to law enforcement, it is your responsibility to properly investigate and prosecute when needed. We will discuss some of the more common injuries occurring including burns, submersion burns, slaps, spiral fractures, and overmedicating. How best to interview the victim and the facility documents to request via subpoena as your investigation progresses.

**11:45 AM - 1:00 PM**

**Lunch Buffet**

**1:00 PM - 2:00 PM**

**The Role of Forensic Accounting in Elder Abuse Investigations**

Speaker: Dr. David Weber

Increasingly, the field of financial investigations, also known as forensic accounting, has become a critical skill set. Fraud examiners and forensic accountants are the bloodhounds of white-collar crime, including financial and digital exploitation cases. In this engaging presentation, you will be introduced to the fraud and forensic accounting profession, and how their skills are used in financial exploitation and high-tech crime against elders and vulnerable adults. Dr. Weber will discuss how the program he leads, the Fraud and Forensic Accounting Certificate Program at Salisbury University, is supporting the fight against financial exploitation and high-tech crime on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Through generous grants, the program is matching forensics students with state and local law enforcement to provide the financial and digital forensics skill set. With an eye towards replicating the forensic accounting partnerships of the Eastern Shore, Dr. Weber will provide attendees with the initial knowledge to create partnerships within their own communities.

**2:00 PM - 2:15 PM**

**Break**

**2:15 PM - 3:15 PM**

**Investigative Documentation: Is This a Fact?**

Speaker: Barbara Pratt

Joint investigations of cases of abuse, neglect, and exploitation by law enforcement and APS are considered best practice. The goal for law enforcement is a successful prosecution. APS is focused on stopping or preventing future maltreatment, with or without criminal charges.

This session will focus on writing comprehensive, clear, and balanced Adult Protective Service investigative documentation that could better support possible legal action. We will use examples and group exercises to illustrate what is a factual statement. Conversely, we will identify when case notes are instead a supported professional opinion, assessment, or conclusion. We will consider common alleged perpetrators' explanations and specific questions to ask to determine the credibility of the information.

**3:15 PM - 3:30 PM**

**Break**

## **Monday, November 18, 2024 (cont.)**

**3:30 PM - 4:30 PM**

### **Elder Abuse Guide for Law Enforcement (EAGLE)**

Speaker:

By virtue of U.S. demographics, elder abuse is one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States. Elder Abuse Guide for Law Enforcement (EAGLE) is a national web module designed to support officers in identifying, intervening, and resolving cases of elder abuse.

## Tuesday, November 19, 2024

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

### Buffet Breakfast

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

### Case Study: Who is Billy Chemirmir?

Speakers: Glen Fitzmartin, Det. Paul Martinez, Sgt. Kelly Pagel

Billy Chemirmir was accused of posing as a medical professional or maintenance person and gaining access to the properties of at least twenty-two elderly women and smothering them with a pillow. Most of Chemirmir's victims lived in apartments at independent living communities for older adults. Among the women he's accused of killing in private homes is the widow of a man he had cared for while working as an at-home caregiver. Chemirmir was ultimately indicted on 22 capital murder charges, 13 in Dallas County and nine in nearby Collin County and convicted of two. The presentation by DA Fitzmartin, Detective Martinez, and Sgt. Pagel will give an in-depth look at the arrest, prosecution, and conviction of Chemirmir.

10:30 AM - 10:45 AM

### Break

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

### Financial Institutions and the Fight Against Elder Financial Exploitation

Speaker: Ron Long

This session will describe the traditional role financial institutions play in the lives of older persons and how they are working to help combat elder financial abuse. It will also talk through some challenges aging advocates have with these institutions and some potential solutions.

11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

### Lunch Buffet

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

### Suspicious Activity Report (SAR)

Speaker: Laura Richardson, Lisa Weintraub Schifferle

Under the Bank Secrecy Act (BSA), financial institutions are federally required to file Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) to report transactions that the filer knows or suspects to be related to a wide variety of criminal offenses. SARs on potential elder financial exploitation can be a critical investigative tool for law enforcement and prosecutors to gather evidence, identify patterns, and connect dots. Social services organizations don't have access to SARs, nor do all law enforcement agencies. But awareness of SARs can inform their coordination with law enforcement and prosecutors using SARs. This session will explain the basics of the financial industry's SAR reporting practices, and present trends in EFE SARs. We will discuss promising practices in using SARs effectively for law enforcement case initiation and development.

2:00 PM - 2:15 PM

### Break

2:15 PM - 3:15 PM

### The Role of APS in Elder Abuse Investigations

Speaker: Michael Hagenlock

The criminal justice system and APS are natural allies who are best able to meet needs when they collaborate. Effective collaboration requires that APS professionals and Law enforcement understand the roles, authority, guiding principles, and language to create respectful partnerships. APS and the criminal justice system professionals address allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults and people with disabilities. As APS professionals, we deal with these allegations daily. The criminal justice system often has less expertise in handling cases involving older adults and adults with a disability and often lacks training in the dynamics of these cases.

APS professionals and criminal justice system professionals also focus on different things. You already know your role of the criminal justice system. We will focus on APS's role, and priorities which is investigating allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation and working with the person, when possible, to stabilize the situation and reduce the risk for future abuse or neglect.

3:15 PM - 3:30 PM

### Break

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

### Federal Elder Abuse and Exploitation Resources and Investigations

Speaker: Courtney Mulholland

An in-depth presentation from the United States Postal Service on how Federal Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation cases are investigated and prosecuted. This session will also include an overview on how law enforcement can make referrals to federal agencies for review. Inspector Mulholland will give an update on current financial exploitation and fraud trends that are occurring in the United States.

## Wednesday, November 20, 2024

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

**Breakfast Buffet**

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM

**Non-Traditional, Transnational Organized Crime and How They Target Older Adults**

Speaker: Dale Morgan

This presentation will focus on nontraditional organized crime and nomadic organized criminals. These groups have identified subcultures which the FBI has identified as criminal groups identifying themselves as Travelers, Gypsies, Romanian Nationals, and other theft groups that target the elderly. The presentation will delve into the types of confidence schemes employed by these groups, the wealth associated with this type of organized crime, subculture characteristics, and issues with prosecution such as challenges with victims, witnesses, identification, extradition, education, and non-violent crime. Furthermore, the presentation will explore what tactics the criminals employ to ensure the success of these scams. It will address a comprehensive solution involving the collaboration of various entities such as the media, APS, local law enforcement, the FBI, and financial institutions.

10:15 AM - 10:30 AM

**Break**

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

**Hiding in Plain Sight: Older Adults Benefit Tracking**

Speaker: Cpt. Jordan Satinsky

An emerging type of trafficking is targeting overlooked at-risk adults. Benefits Trafficking is the systematic recruitment, harboring, neglect, and financial exploitation of elder and disabled adults who receive government benefits such as Social Security, Veteran's Benefits, Medicaid, and Medicare. Traffickers often pose as kind-hearted individuals offering to provide care for at-risk adults in an in-home setting. Once recruited, at-risk adults are stripped of their government benefits, held against their will, moved from location to location, and denied basic needs such as food, clothing, and adequate shelter. While Benefits Trafficking is a basic civil rights violation issue, it is also a growing public health issue. Victims of Benefits Trafficking are often the forgotten at-risk adults who have fallen through the cracks of various mental health systems, are unhoused, and no longer have a social support system in place.

11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

**Lunch Provided**

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

**The Forensic Interview & Elder Abuse Investigations**

Speaker: Dr. Crimson Barocca

The forensic interview, historically used in child maltreatment investigations, has rarely been used as a trauma informed technique with older adults. Learn about the value of forensic interviews for gathering reliable and detailed information from adult victims. You will learn forensic interview techniques to address the physical and emotional needs of the individual and how this lends to them providing more complete statements. This session will provide an overview of a phased approach to interviewing and best practice question types.

2:00 PM - 2:15 PM

**Break**

2:15 PM - 3:15 PM

**Artificial Intelligence (AI) meets AARP: The New Frontier of Elder Fraud**

Speaker: Christopher DeAngelis

Older adults have long been targets of fraud and exploitation by bad actors. Now, the rapid advancement in AI technology is making this vulnerable population even more exploitable. While some new and unique schemes have emerged, the more significant impact is coming from the improvement and sophistication to existing methods that AI brings to the table. It is not only helping unknown third parties commit these crimes but also providing unscrupulous caregivers and family members with the means to do it more often, and in more damaging ways.

3:15 PM - 3:30 PM

**Closing**