



Department  
of Commerce

John R. Kasich, Governor

Jacqueline T. Williams, Director

## **Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation** *Ohio's New Mandated Reporters Effective Sept. 29, 2018*

A new law regarding new professions required to report cases of suspected elder abuse and financial exploitation goes into effect Sept. 29. The law affects some of Commerce's divisions and licensees.

As part of Ohio's biennium operating budget bill, provisions of Ohio's Adult Protective Services laws were amended to require certain individuals to make a report to county departments of job and family services offices when they have "reasonable cause to believe" that an adult is being abused, neglected or exploited.

Under this new law, mandatory reporters who work in industries regulated by commerce include:

- For the Division of Securities: Investment Advisers as defined in Ohio Revised Code Chapter 1707.01, and Financial Planners accredited by a national accreditation agency.
- For the Division of Financial Institutions: An employee of an Ohio-chartered bank or credit union organized under the laws of Ohio.
- For the Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing: Real Estate Brokers or Real Estate Salespersons licensed under O.R.C. § 4735.
- For the Division of State Fire Marshal: An individual who is a firefighter for a lawfully constituted fire department.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) is required to provide training for implementing the statutory provisions on adult protective services, make educational materials available to mandatory reporters, and facilitate interagency cooperation. Two dedicated educational booklets prepared by ODJFS are available online:

**Understanding Elder Abuse: A Guide for Ohioans:**

<http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/forms/num/JFS08098/pdf/>

**Understanding Elder Abuse: A Guide for Financial Services Professionals:**

<http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/forms/num/JFS08095/pdf/>

Those who are mandatory reporters are encouraged to read this information to ensure they are fully informed of their responsibilities under the new law.

For more information, contact the appropriate local Adult Protective Services agency listed in the guides above, or call Ohio's toll-free Adult Protective Services Referral Line at 855-OHIO-APS (855-644-6277).