

Conned elderly have few legal remedies

DEAR ABBY: I read with interest the letter from "Worried Sick in Alabama," whose mother was about to give money to a known con man. The same thing happened to my mother, who didn't stop "lending" money until \$67,000 was gone.

The district attorney, two police departments and an attorney who specializes in elder issues sympathized with me, but no one could do



abigail van buren

• dear abby

anything. They told me, in effect, that as long as people are mentally competent, they can do whatever they want with their own money. Trusting, naive and misguided do not constitute incompetence.

Finally, I hired a private detective who found pending felony theft charges and other incriminating facts about the guy who was conning my mother. I believe she was persuaded

more by the fact I hired a private detective than by what he dug up. She did quit writing checks, but I live in constant fear that some other con artist will find her.

I encourage "Worried" to find some way to invest her mother's money so that Mom won't have instant access to it. If possible, she should be convinced to let her daughter pay her bills for her, and set up a checking account where two signatures are required.

This is a difficult and, I suspect, widespread problem. I don't know what the answer is, because it includes issues of dignity and self-worth, as well as independence. I

know elderly people who have lost their good judgment, and will lose their ability to pay their own way because of it. — STILL WORRIED IN ALABAMA

DEAR ABBY: Perhaps the next letter will ease your mind. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: We at the National Center on Elder Abuse read the tragic letter from "Worried Sick in Alabama." Sadly, her story illustrates how financial crimes pose a growing threat to the well-being and independence of our "greatest generation."

It is cause for concern when a senior grants unusual access or control of his or her assets to another person

in suspicious circumstances. A challenge in detecting this is that victims may be reluctant to reveal financial abuse or accuse their abuser out of fear of retaliation or losing their independence. They may also feel embarrassed or reluctant to get the perpetrator in trouble.

In addition to consulting an attorney and contacting law enforcement, our advice is to report concerns to Adult Protective Services, the long-term care ombudsman or the state attorney general's office. Call the Eldercare Locator, a public service of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration of Aging, at (800) 677-1116 (Monday

through Friday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. EST) to quickly find the numbers of your local agencies. To learn more about how to prevent, recognize or respond to elder abuse, neglect or exploitation, please visit our Web site at www.elderabusecenter.org.

Thank you, Abby, for helping millions of American seniors with your informative and sensitive advice. — AMY HANLEY, NATIONAL CENTER ON ELDER ABUSE

DEAR AMY: Thank you for a helpful letter; you will never know how many people you have helped today. It breaks my heart that these services are necessary, but I'm grateful that you are there to protect vulnerable seniors from predators.

TUESDAY EVENING										E= Eagle Cable S=S&T Telephone APR. 6, 2004									
E	S		6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30							
36	53	A&E	Biography "Will Smith" Performer Will Smith.		Cold Case Files Alligators help to solve a murder investigation: a 20-year-old homicide. [E]				Third Watch "Patterns" [E]		Biography "Will Smith" Performer Will Smith.								
4	6	ABC	8 Simple Rules (N)	I'm With Her (N) [E]	According to Jim (N)	It's All Relative (N)	NYPD Blue "In Goddess We Trussed" (N) [E]		News [E]	(3:35) Nightline [E]	(:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live [E]								
26	48	ANPL	The Big Squeeze [E]		Venom ER (N)		Miami Animal Police "Pit Bull Raid" (N)		The Big Squeeze [E]		Venom ER								
63	54	BRAVO	Queer Eye for the Straight Guy "Ralph S."		Significant Others [E]	Significant Others (N)	Queer Eye for the Straight Guy "Mark Fe"		The West Wing "In This White House" [E]		Queer Eye for the Straight Guy "Mark Fe"								
7	11	CBS	Navy NCIS "UnSEALED" (N) [E]		Century City "Sweet Child of Mine" (N) [E]		Judging Amy "The Quick and the Dead" (N)		News [E]	(3:35) Late Show Bruce Willis; Renee Askins. (N)	The Late Late Show								
24	50	DISC	Wild Discovery "White-tails in America" [E]		Crash Files: On the Inside of the NTSB [E]		The FBI Files "Backstage Murder" (N)		Monster Garage "Monster Nation 1" [E]		Animal Face-Off "Lion vs. Tiger" (1998) Steve Askins. (N)								
33	44	DISN	Kim Possible: The Proud Family [E]		Even Stevens [E]	Sister, Sister [E]	Sister, Sister [E]	Lizzie McGuire	★ "Meet the Deedles" Van Wormer. PG [E]		(:45) Kim Possible								
49	81	EITV	Daryl Hannah		The Rock		Infamous (N)		Howard S. [E]	Howard S. [E]	Celebrities Uncensored								
22	56	ESPN	Final Four Women's College Basketball: NCAA Final -- Teams TBA				SportsCenter (Live) [E]		SportsCenter (Live) [E]		Outside Baseball								
54	57	ESPN2	MLB Baseball: San Francisco Giants at Houston Astros. (Live) [E]				NBA Fastbreak Tuesday		NBA Fastbreak Tuesday		Fastbreak								
32	46	FAM	★ ★ ★ "One Fine Day" (1996) Michelle Pfeiffer.		Who? [E]	Who? [E]	The 700 Club [E]		Bodies [E]	In Shape [E]	Funniest Home Videos								
59	-	FIT TV	Bodies [E]	In Shape [E]	Workout [E]	Fitness [E]	Peak Performance [E]		Bodies [E]	In Shape [E]	Workout [E]	Fitness [E]							
35	31	FMC	(:01) ★ ★ ★ "The Diary of Anne Frank" (1959) Joseph Schildkraut.				(:01) Hour of Stars		(:01) Hour of Stars		"Young Mr. Lincoln"								
53	68	FOOD	Emeril Live		Roker on the Road [E]	Foodnation [E]	Food Finds [E]	Amer. Festivals [E]	Unwrapped [E]		Good Eats [E]	Emeril Live							
13	7	FOX	American Idol (iTV) Finalists compete. [E]		24 "Day 3: 5:00AM - 6:00AM" (N) [E]		The Fox Report With Shepard Smith [E]		Cagney & Lacey [E]		Kojak								
40	38	FX	Cops [E]	Cops [E]	Cops [E]	★ "Armageddon" (1998, Action) Bruce Willis, Billy Bob Thornton.													
30	55	FXSP	MLB Baseball		Rocky Mt. [E]	NASCAR [E]	FOX One [E]	The Best Damn Sports Show Period [E]	Rocky Mt. [E]		Late Poker [E]								
5	14	HBO	"Eight Leg Frks" [E]	(:45) ★ ★ ★ "Quiz Show" (1994) John Turturro. A congressional investigator uncovers game show fraud. [E]	PG-13 [E]		★ ★ ★ "Identity" (2003, Suspense) John Cusack, Ray Liotta. [E]	R [E]			"Transporter" [E]								
62	67	HGTV	Outer [E]	Sensible [E]	Decorating [E]	Design [E]	Designers' [E]	Designers' [E]	Home [E]	Design [E]	Outer [E]	Sensible [E]							
58	52	HIST	True Crime "Blow" (N) [E]		True Crime A gang's reign of terror ends. (N)		Wild West Tech "Execution Tech" (N) [E]		Infamous Murders [E]		Infamous Murders [E]	True Crime "Blow" [E]							
25	35	IND	(5:30) MLB Baseball New York Mets at Atlanta Braves. From Turner Field in Atlanta. (Live)				★ ★ ★ "Outbreak" (1995, Suspense) Dustin Hoffman. An African monkey carries a lethal virus to California. [E]	(DVS)											
18	63	LIFE	The Nanny [E]	The Nanny [E]	★ "The Return of Alex Kelly" (1999) [E]		Golden [E]	Golden [E]	The Nanny [E]		The Nanny [E]								
23	77	MTV	TRL (iTV) [E]		Video [E]	Room Rdr [E]	Direct Effect [E]		Real World [E]	Real World [E]	Real World [E]								
3	9	NBC	News [E]	Ent. Tonight [E]	Health Fair 25th Anniv. [E]	Happy Family (N) [E]	Fraser (N) [E]	(:31) Scrubs (N) [E]	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Lowdown" [E]		News [E]	The Tonight Show [E]							
8	8	NBC	Whoopi (N) [E]	Happy Family (N) [E]	Fraser (N) [E]	(:31) Scrubs (N) [E]	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Lowdown" [E]		News [E]	(:35) The Tonight Show (N) [E]	(:37) Late Night (N) [E]								
34	43	NICK	Oddparents [E]	Sabrina [E]	Full House [E]	Full House [E]	Cosby [E]	Cosby [E]	Roseanne [E]	Cosby [E]	Cosby [E]								
2	2	PBS	Nova "Ancient Creature of the Deep" (DVS)		Innovation "Crash Site Secrets" (N) [E]	(DVS)	Now With Bill Moyers [E]		BBC World News [E]	That's My Boy [E]	Charlie Rose (N) [E]								
38	83	SCIFI	(4:00) ★ ★ "The Beast" (1996) William Petersen.				Mad Mad House [E]		Ultraviolet [E]	(Part 2 of 3) [E]									
61	41	SPK	Deep Space 9 [E]		Deep Space 9 [E]		Deep Space 9 [E]		Deep Space 9 [E]		Oblivious [E]	Oblivious [E]							
39	51	TLC	While You Were Out [E]		Clean Sweep Organize toys and games. [E]		In a Fix "Nature Within" Cheap fixtures give way. [E]		Rides "Road to Riddler" Riddler trophy. [E]		Rides "Dominant" Fourteen custom cars. [E]								
28	37	TNT	NBA Basketball: Raptors at Cavaliers				NBA Basketball Portland Trail Blazers at Los Angeles Lakers.				Inside NBA [E]								
51	86	TRAV	Food Crazy (N) [E]		Made [E]	Made [E]	Road Trip (N) [E]		Food Crazy [E]		Made [E]	Made [E]							
21	82	TVLND	Griffith [E]	Munsters [E]	Bewitched [E]	GreenAcre [E]	Griffith [E]	Leave [E]	Family Ties [E]	Cheers [E]	Sanford [E]	All-Family [E]							
60	89	UNIV	Mariana de la Noche [E]		Bajo la Misma Piel [E]		Casos de la Vida Real [E]		Impacto [E]	Noticiero [E]	En las Mejores Familias [E]								
20	34	USA	Law & Order [E]		★ ★ "Congo" (1995) Dylan Walsh, Laura Linney. [E]	(DVS)	Law & Order [E]		Law & Order [E]		Sisco [E]								
12	3	WB	Friends [E]	Everybody-Raymond [E]	Gilmore Girls [E]		One Tree Hill "Spirit in the Night" (N) [E]		News [E]		Friends [E]	Will & Grace [E]							
99	36	WGN	★ ★ ★ "Night and the City" (1992) [E]				News [E]		Becker [E]	Becker [E]	Eliminate [E]	5th Wheel [E]							

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E	S	6 pm		6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30
36	53	A&E	Biography "The Rock" [E]		American Justice "Traces in Blood" (N)		City Confidential [E]		Third Watch "Hell Is What You Make of It" [E]		Biography "The Rock" [E]	
4	6	ABC	My Wife and Kids	My Wife and Kids	The Bachelor NFL player Jesse Palmer meets 25 women, then narrows the field. [E]				News [E]	(:35) Nightline [E]	(:(06) Jimmy Kimmel Live Hank Azaria. [E]	
26	48	ANPL	Most Extreme: Jumpers [E]		The Crocodile Hunter Diaries (N)		Miami Animal Police "Dog Day Afternoon" [E]		Most Extreme: Jumpers [E]		The Crocodile Hunter Diaries [E]	
63	54	BRAVO	Queer Eye for the Straight Guy "Mark Fe" [E]		Keen Eddie "Sucker Punch" [E]		Keen Eddie "Keeping Up Appearances" [E]		The West Wing [E]		Queer Eye for the Straight Guy "Ralph S." [E]	
7	11	CBS	60 Minutes II [E]		The King of The Stones Queens (N) [E]		48 Hours Investigates "True Confession" (N)		News [E]	(:35) Late Show Jimmy Fallon; Brntney Spears. [E]	The Late Late Show [E]	
24	50	DISC	Serengeti Today: Going West - Hyena [E]		Three Minutes to Impact [E]		Justice Files "Double-Crossed" Informants. [E]		Monster Garage "Monster Nation 2" [E]		RFK Assassination (N)	
33	44	DISN	Kim Possible [E]	The Proud Family [E]	Even Stevens [E]	Sister, Sister [E]	Sister, Sister [E]	Lizzie McGuire	★ ★ "The Thirteenth Year" (1999, Fantasy) Chez Starbuck. [E]		(:(45) Re-cess [E]	
49	81	E!TV	Goldie & Kate: The El True Hollywood Story [E]			Celebrities Uncensored			Howard S. [E]		Celebrities Uncensored	
22	56	ESPN	NHL Hockey: Conf. Quarter.			Fastbreak [E]			NBA Basketball: Warriors at Trail Blazers		SportsCtr. [E]	
54	57	ESPN2	MLB Baseball: Giants at Astros			NHL Hockey: Conference Quarterfinal - Teams TBA					NHL 2Night [E]	
32	46	FAM	"Romy and Michele's High School Reunion" [E]			Who? [E]		Who? [E]	The 700 Club [E]		Videos	Videos
59	-	FIT TV	Bodies [E]			In Shape [E]	Workout [E]	Fitness [E]	Peak Performance [E]		Bodies [E]	In Shape [E]
35	31	FMC	(:01) ★ ★ "Nuns on the Run" (1990) Eric Idle. [E]			(:01) Hour of Stars [E]			(:01) ★ ★ ★ "Panic in the Streets" (1950)		Workout [E]	
53	68	FOOD	Emeril Live "Egg-Cellent Eggs" (N)		Good Eats [E]	Good Eats [E]	\$40-a-Day [E]		Ciao America [E]	Unwrapped [E]	Good Eats [E]	Emeril Live "Egg-Cellent Eggs" [E]
13	7	FOX	American Idol (Live) [E]		The Swan (Series Premiere) (N) [E]		The Fox Report With Shepard Smith [E]		Cagney & Lacey [E]		Kojak [E]	
40	38	FX	(:5:00) ★ ★ "Armageddon" (1998, Action) Bruce Willis. [E]			★ ★ ★ "Predator" (1987) Arnold Schwarzenegger. [E]						
30	55	FXSP	NASCAR [E]	Rocky Mt. [E]	FOX One [E]	Nuggets [E]	NBA Basketball: Denver Nuggets at Phoenix Suns. (Live)		Rocky Mt. [E]			
5	14	HBO	"Mission Impsbl." [E]			★ "What a Girl Wants" (2003) Amanda Bynes. [E]			(:15) ★ ★ ★ "Solaris" (2002, Science Fiction) George Clooney. Premiere. [E]		The Sopranos Rumors about Adriana surface. [E]	
62	67	HGTV	House [E]	Spaces [E]	Weekend [E]	Mission [E]	Curb [E]	Curb [E]	Home [E]	Restore [E]	House [E]	Spaces [E]
58	52	HIST	The Guilty Men: A Historical Review (N) [E]		Modern Marvels "Egyptian Pyramids" [E]		Modern Marvels "Bible Tech" (N) [E]		The Bible's Greatest Secrets [E]		The Guilty Men: A Historical Review [E]	
25	35	IND	Seinfeld [E]	Seinfeld [E]	Seinfeld [E]	Seinfeld [E]	★ ★ "Tango & Cash" (1989, Drama) (PA) Sylvester Stallone, Kurt Russell. [E]		★ ★ "Highlander: The Final Dimension" (1994)			
18	63	LIFE	The Nanny [E]	The Nanny [E]	"Earthquake in New York" (1998) Greg Evigan. [E]			Golden [E]	Golden [E]	The Nanny [E]	The Nanny [E]	
23	77	MTV	TRL (iTV) [E]		Made [E]		Direct Effect [E]		Pimp Ride [E]	Pimp Ride [E]	Famous [E]	Famous [E]
3	9	NBC	News [E]	Ent. Tonight [E]	The Apprentice "The Price Is Height" [E]			Law & Order "Shrunk" [E]	Law & Order "Darwinian" [E]	News [E]	The Tonight Show [E]	
8	8	NBC	The Apprentice "The Price Is Height" [E]		Law & Order "Shrunk" [E]		Law & Order "Darwinian" [E]		News [E]	(:35) The Tonight Show Donald Trump. (N) [E]	(:(37) Late Night [E]	
34	43	NICK	Oddparents [E]	Danny [E]	Full House [E]	Full House [E]	Cosby [E]	Cosby [E]	Roseanne [E]	Roseanne [E]	Cosby [E]	Cosby [E]
2	2	PBS	Secrets of the Dead "Shroud of Christ?" (N)		My Journey Home People who came to America as children. (N) [E]			BBC World News [E]		Two's Company [E]		Charlie Rose (N) [E]
38	83	SCIFI	(:5:00) ★ ★ "Firestarter: Rekindled" (2002) Marguerite Moreau. [E]			Ultraviolet [E]			(Part 3 of 3) [E]			
61	41	SPK	Deep Space 9 [E]		Deep Space 9 [E]		Deep Space 9 [E]		Deep Space 9 [E]		"Cheech-Next" [E]	
39	51	TLC	While You Were Out [E]		Clean Sweep "Storming the Palace" [E]		In a Fix "Bachelor's Mess" (N)		What Not to Wear Former male dancer. [E]		Trading Spaces: Home Free "Ocoee" [E]	
28	37	TNT	Law & Order "Asterisk" [E]		"The Winning Season" (2004) Matthew Modine. [E]			"The Winning Season" [E]		2004) Matthew Modine. [E]		
51	86	TRAV	Secrets [E]		World Poker Tour [E]			Secrets [E]		World Poker Tour [E]		
21	82	TVLND	Griffith [E]	Munsters [E]	Bewitched [E]		GreenAcree [E]	Griffith [E]	Leave [E]	Family Ties [E]	Cheers [E]	Sanford [E]
60	89	UNIV	Mariana de la Noche [E]		Bajo la Misma Piel [E]		Don Francisco Presenta [E]		Impacto [E]	Noticiero [E]	En las Mejores Familias [E]	
20	34	USA	Law & Order [E]		Law & Order [E]		Karen Sisco (N) [E]		Law & Order [E]		The Dead Zone [E]	
12	3	WB	Friends [E]	Everybody-Raymond [E]	Smallville "Asylum" [E]		Smallville "Viewers' Choice" (N) [E]		News [E]	Friends [E]	Will & Grace [E]	