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# Scammed: 3 Steps To Help Your Elder Parents And Yourself



ART MAINES, LCSW



## **Synopsis**

One in every five Americans over 65 falls prey to scammers, creating financial devastation, shame, and heartbreak. When author Art Mainesâ™s beloved stepfather, Bill, was cheated out of thousands of dollars, Art went on a crusade to help other families guard against this tragic crime. In *Scammed!*, Art provides a three-step scam prevention and recovery program based on his training as a therapist and his extensive research. Suitable for seniors or children of elderly parents, *Scammed!* will help you:

- Understand the most common types of scams
- Learn the psychological ploys used by scammers so that you can spot a scammer immediately
- Create a scam prevention plan
- Recover from a scam with your dignity intact
- Use the resources in your community if you suspect a scam

• An excellent guide to helping your parent avoid predators

• N. Kortner Nygard, Ph.D., Geriatric Psychologist • A wealth of advice to help heal the emotional and physical aftermath of scams

• Jennifer L. Abel, Ph.D., author of *Active Relaxation* • A simple breakdown of scams that target the elderly with a battle plan to protect and prevent

• Detective Joe Roubicek, author of *Financial Abuse of the Elderly: A Detective's Case Files of Exploitation Crimes* • This is an important book for anyone with elderly parents.

• Gregory W. Lester, Ph.D.

Art Maines, LCSW, is a mental health professional in private practice, a speaker, and an expert in elderly fraud recovery. He earned his Masterâ™s Degree in social work from Washington University in St. Louis, MO. Art and his stepfather, Bill, live in St. Louis Missouri, where he is an avid cyclist and champion for helping others.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Scammed: 3 Steps to Help Your Elder Parents and Yourself by Art Maines is the kind of book you hope you never need but it's great to know that it's available if that concern should arise. And that need may arise so it might behoove those of us with elderly parents to take this seriously. According to Maines, "Seniors make up about 12 percent (and rising) of the US population, but are approximately 35 percent of all fraud victims." (pg. xvi) Maines is talking about several different kinds of scams, frauds and exploitation targeting our elderly parents. Maines took up this educational cause after he helped his stepfather, Bill, through the aftermath of an ongoing scam that ended up robbing him of tens of thousands of dollars. Maines writes: "My main purpose in writing this book is to help you help your parents or other loved one deal with and recover from the awful experience of getting ripped off by professional scam artists. I provide the three steps I took in handling a series of scams perpetrated on my 82-year-old stepfather in 2009. Though the specific details of your experience will be different from mine, I provide ideas and resources to help you manage and minimize the damage from this type of crime." (pg. xxi) Scammed is set up to make providing help and guidance very accessible to the reader. The easy to read, informative style shouldn't be intimidating to anyone. The advice is very well organized. There really is a plethora of good, common-sense advice as well as some very specific steps that you need to take, organizations you need to contact, hurdles you might encounter, and even proactive ways to prevent scams.

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