

*Protecting Wisconsin Consumers for 75 Years*

## Elderly & disabled law combats fraud

Wisconsin law (Wis. Stat. §100.264) provides additional punishment for those who take advantage of the elderly or disabled.

This legislation allows courts to impose additional forfeitures of up to \$10,000 for violations of consumer protection laws including:

- False advertising
- Motor vehicle repair
- Landlord-tenant
- Home improvement
- Telecommunication and cable services
- Chain distributor schemes
- Mobile home parks
- Deceptive offers of employment
- Dating services
- Fitness centers
- Mail order
- Requiring purchases for receiving prizes

The law may be applied in a number of situations including those in which the guilty

person knew that the victim was elderly (age 62 and older) or disabled.

### **Sends message**

**This law addresses the fact that the elderly and disabled are more likely to suffer losses than other persons due to their age, poor health, impaired understanding or restricted mobility. As a deterrent, this law sends a clear message to anyone thinking of committing such an act in Wisconsin that we do not tolerate preying on the most vulnerable people in our society.**

The law also applies if the guilty person's conduct caused an elderly or disabled person to suffer physical or emotional damage or loss of:

- A primary residence
- Principal employment or source of employment
- More than 25% of the property set aside for

retirement or for personal or family care

- More than 25% of pension or retirement payments
- Essential assets to health or welfare

The additional forfeiture can only be applied in cases in which the defendant is ordered to pay restitution.

For more information or to file a complaint, visit our website or contact the Bureau of Consumer Protection.

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