



# 2020 AICPA Personal Financial Planning Trends Survey

## Elder Planning Issues – Fraud & Diminished Capacity

### Methodology

The AICPA’s PFP Trends Survey is administered as an online survey to CPAs who are members of the AICPA Personal Financial Planning Section, including those holding the CPA/PFS credential. The survey, which included responses from 688 CPA financial planners, was conducted from 11/26/2019 through 1/20/2020.

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### TOPLINE DATA

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**1. In the last five years, what kinds of financial abuse or fraud have you encountered with your elderly clients or their families? (check all that you have encountered):**

Type of Financial Abuse or Fraud	Percent of CPAs who have encountered each scam with their elderly clients in the last 5 years
Phone or Internet	75%
Inability to say ‘no’ to relatives	60%
Identity Theft	49%
Support for Non-disabled Adult Children	43%
Credit Card Theft	30%
Taken advantage of by in-home caregiver	26%
Mistaken Charity Request for Bill	12%
Other	6%

**2. In your experience when financial abuse or fraud occurs with elderly clients, rate the impact of the following items on your clients:**

Type of impact	Substantial	Minimal	No impact	Not Sure	No experience
Emotional impact (stress)	67.9%	15.9%	1.0%	7.1%	7.3%
Financial impact	32.1%	45.3%	5.5%	9.4%	7.5%

**3. Which option best describes your clients' general attitude toward the potential of diminished mental capacity in retirement? (select one)**

<b>Clients' general attitude toward the potential of diminished mental capacity</b>	
They are discussing but not sure what to do	35.9%
They deal with it on a reactionary basis	27.7%
They are ignoring the issue	19.5%
They are taking proactive steps	16.8%

**4. In the past year, have you had your first experience with any client or clients who have begun to show signs of dementia or diminished capacity? (Base: 477)**

<b>Have you had your first experience with any client or clients who have begun to show signs of dementia or diminished capacity?</b>	
Yes	47.6%
No	52.4%

**5. For your clients who have dementia or diminished capacity, which of the following does your plan for them include? (Check all that apply)**

<b>Plan Component</b>	<b>% of CPA financial planners who include component in a plan for clients to address dementia</b>
Ensure powers of attorney & health care proxies are in place	91.5%
Authorization to contact client's other professionals & relatives	66.4%
Authorization to contact client's attorney	44.4%
Money moved to a trust	37.0%
Automate yearly RMDs	34.2%
Moving to a previously selected assisted care facility	22.9%
Other	5.2%
Freeze the client's accounts	3.7%