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NEWSROOM

PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

MEETINGS AND AGENDAS

E-NEWSLETTER

EVENT CALENDAR

Sept. 20, 2012

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Free education event on preventing fraud and exploitation in older adults to be held Oct. 5

Financial abuse among older adults is a serious crime and on the rise. The Sarasota Community Alliance Aging in Place Action Team and University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee (USF-SM) will sponsor a free educational event, entitled "Last Will & Embezzlement: Protecting Yourself and Others from Fraud and Exploitation," on Friday, Oct. 5, from 8 a.m.-noon at the USF Sarasota-Manatee Campus, Selby Auditorium, 8350 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota.

The event includes the showing of a short documentary featuring actor Mickey Rooney and local professionals in aging. Subsequently, a panel of local experts involved in the prevention and prosecution of financial abuse will answer questions on how to avoid being a crime victim.

"The panel will address common questions such as *"Who are the perpetrators?"* and *"How does exploitation happen?"* and *"Where can I go for help?"*"

"We hope to raise awareness about the insidious ways in which financial exploitation occurs, and more importantly, we want to provide the community with local resources and an interactive forum to directly ask their questions to experts who work with victims of these crimes," said Dr. Kathy Black, Ph.D., USF-SM. "People can learn about how to protect themselves and others from financial fraud."

For many reasons, seniors are more vulnerable to exploitation from both professionals and from individuals close to them, including family. According to the 2010 Investor Protection Elder Fraud Survey released in June, one of every five of the 7.3 million older Americans over the age of 65 have already have been victimized by a financial swindle.

Light refreshments will be served. Space is limited. Register online at <http://lastwillandembezzlement.eventbrite.com/>, or contact Raquel Castillo at Raquel_Castillo@doh.state.fl.us or call 941-861-2575.