

Effective Use of a Forensic Accountant in Elder Abuse Cases

Presented by:
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and
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David Wall, JD, CPA, CFE

- **Forensic Accountant with Riverside County District Attorney's Office** and formerly employed in forensic roles in the public accounting industry. Over 25 years experience.
- **Bachelor of Science (Summa Cum Laude)**
- University of California, Riverside
- Major in Business Administration - Concentration in Accounting - Minor in Statistics
- **Juris Doctor**
- University of West Los Angeles, School of Law
- **Certified Public Accountant** - State of California
- **Certified Fraud Examiner** - Designation from ACFE



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Diane Zimmerman, CFE

- **Forensic Accountant with Riverside County District Attorney's Office** and formerly with San Diego County District Attorney's Office
- Over 25 years private accounting experience
- **Bachelor of Science**
- Concentration in Accounting
- Post Graduate Certification in Legal Studies - University of San Diego
- **Specialized Certification in Forensic Accounting** - University of North Carolina, Charlotte
- **Certified Fraud Examiner** - Designation from ACFE



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What is Forensic Accounting?

A *forensic accountant* is an accountant who goes to court to explain the meaning of accounting and financial information to judges and juries.

Within the criminal justice system, *forensic accounting* involves the analysis of financial data, including bank, brokerage, escrow, and title company records in relation to alleged violations of the penal code.

The forensic accountant pieces together various pieces of financial data and looks for anomalies and irregularities that are red-flags of fraud.



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Benefits of using a Forensic Accountant

- Help Investigators, Attorneys and Elder Care Agencies understand the financial flow
- Trace money
- Quantify the loss
- Create timelines
- Identify additional defendants and co-conspirators
- Identify additional victims and witnesses
- Identify assets for seizure

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Benefits continued

- Obtaining additional documents
- Assistance in interviewing witnesses
- Settlement discussion and negotiations
- Assemble documents for court
- Review and critique work of opposing expert
- Testify as an Expert Witness
- Not a replacement for the Detective - a supplement

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Case Study – People v. Kieffer-Geoff

- Victim: 77-year-old widower.
- Defendant: 63-year-old divorced woman.
- Met through church. Began dating in 2015.
- In July 2016, Victim opened joint accounts with Defendant.
- Defendant persuaded Victim to move his money from his accounts into joint accounts with Defendant.
- Defendant next moved funds from joint accounts into her sole accounts.
- Defendant then "donated" the money to an alleged charitable corporation—one that she controlled.

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Case Study – People v. Vanian

- Victim: Wealthy 80ish year old Widow
- Defendants: Mid 40's Brother and Sister
- Friends of Victim's Granddaughter
- Victim entrusts Defendant to help facilitate issues with her Trust
- Defendant actually did a decent job handling Trust issues to the benefit of Widow
- Defendant hires his Sister to manage the Victim's books
- Defendant then used Victim's funds to invest in a business, purchase multiple high end cars, and homes
- Granddaughter finds hidden Bank Statements
- Brother and Sister are sued in civil court and Victim is awarded over \$3 million in damages.
- Brother flees to Dubai. Sister is prosecuted and sentenced to 7 years in prison. Brother still on the lam.

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Financial Accounts Investigation & Reconstruction

Helpful Documents

- Financial Institution Records:
 - Bank Statements
 - Checks
 - Deposits
 - Wire Transfers
 - Withdrawal Slips
 - Debit Memos
 - Credit Memos
 - Cashier's Checks
 - Signature Cards
 - List of whom Debit Cards were issued
 - Credit Cards and Loan Documents

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Please Keep In Mind...

Each forensic accounting assignment is unique

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