

NOVEMBER 2019

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TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 8

PEARSON TO ADDRESS FINANCIAL ABUSE OF SENIORS AT SEMINAR IN IRELAND

February 8, 2011

The mistreatment and abuse of older people has existed forever. Formal recognition of financial abuse as a societal problem, however, has only occurred during the last 20 to 30 years. By 2050, it is estimated that there will be two billion people over the age of 60, outnumbering children for the first time in history. As this global aging population trend occurs, countries around the world are faced with increased legal and public policy challenges to protect the elderly.

What is financial abuse? What techniques can be used to intervene and respond? What can be done in the absence of an elder-specific protective service law? On February 22, 2011, Professor Katherine Pearson will touch on these and other legal issues of financial elder abuse during her presentation “Legal Implications of Ambivalence in Caregiver relationships” at the University College Dublin, Ireland. Organized by the [National Centre for the Protection of Older People](#), her presentation will lead off a seminar on *Legal and Policy Challenges of Financial Elder Abuse*. Ireland Law Reform Commissioner Patricia Rickard-Clarke will respond during the evening event.

“Much of the reports of problems focus on caregivers, including family members who start with good intentions. Personality and personal factors — including feelings of ambivalence, resentment, entitlement and financial desperation — must be identified and understood in designing effective legal responses and prevention strategies,” said Pearson. “By analyzing an estate planning case from the Supreme Court of Ireland, we will explore the concept of ambivalence and the potential for financial harm to result from using overly simplistic approaches to legal information, advice, and representation.”

Professor Pearson is a nationally recognized elder law expert and from 2009-2010 was a U.K.-U.S. Fulbright Scholar in Belfast, Northern Ireland, where she studied law and aging policy matters. She draws upon experiences of The Dickinson Schools of Law of the Pennsylvania State University Elder Law and Consumer Protection Clinic in her most recent book [The Law of Financial Abuse and Exploitation](#) (2011).

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