## CRIME ALERT //



## **Protect Vulnerable Veterans from Fiduciary Theft**

The VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) continues to investigate theft of funds by individuals who have been appointed to help veterans and other beneficiaries unable to manage their financial affairs.



- The fiduciary is secretive or vague about spending, lacks documentation to support expenses, or is generally unresponsive to requests from VA.
- VA benefits are commingled with other non-VA deposits or transferred to another account not owned by the beneficiary.
- Checks are made payable to "cash," or there are large or repeated ATM withdrawals.
- The beneficiary's address or phone number is changed without explanation.
- The fiduciary restricts access to the beneficiary or insists they speak on behalf of the beneficiary during field exams.

## **Take Action to Protect Beneficiaries:**

- Ensure spending records reflect that funds are being used for the daily needs of the beneficiary or their recognized dependents.
- Review required accounting submissions for unusual transactions signaling the borrowing, loaning, or gifting of funds that belong to the beneficiary, and follow up on delinquent submissions.
- Assess the beneficiary and their residence during field exams for signs of neglect.
- Alert a supervisor and report suspected crimes to the VA OIG.



- VA OIG FRAUD TOOLKIT
- VBA FIDUCIARY INFORMATION



## **SUBMIT A COMPLAINT**

www.vaoig.gov/hotline 800.488.8244 VA Inspector General Hotline (53H) 810 Vermont Ave, NW

Washington, DC 20420



