TNEJC WEEKLY UPDATE

National elder-justice developments. Tennessee-ready prevention and response.

PROFESSIONAL EDITION | **NOVEMBER 23, 2026**

THIS WEEK'S ACTION **Know the signs of neglect. Report unmet basic needs. Share the Elder Justice plate opportunity.**

WHEN CARE FAILS

Fentress County indictments put vulnerable-adult neglect at the center of this week's update.

TENNESSEE LEAD | TBI MEDICAID FRAUD CONTROL DIVISION | PENDING CHARGES

TBI says its Medicaid Fraud Control Division and Jamestown Police investigated the August 2024 death of Andrew Willis, an adult with developmental disabilities. Agents allege that his mother, Deborah Deloris Laraway, and sister, Deborah 'Mae' Viola, who served as caregivers, failed to properly feed and care for him, resulting in his death.

Both women were indicted on first-degree murder and aggravated neglect of a vulnerable adult. Viola also faces TennCare fraud and a computer offense after investigators alleged she billed the TennCare CHOICES Program for services she did not provide. These are allegations; both defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

TNEJC TAKEAWAY: neglect can be life-threatening, and benefit fraud can exist alongside failures of care.

Primary source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation - November 6, 2026

THANKSGIVING WEEK ACTION | HELP PUT ELDER JUSTICE ON THE ROAD



Exact proposed concepts from the November 22 TNEJC tri-color flyer.

Email your interest

TNElderJusticeCoalition.org/license-plate

WHAT PLATE PROCEEDS COULD SUPPORT

- Prevention close to home: safety guides and workshops, including rural and underserved communities.
- Help after exploitation: clearer reporting guidance and connections to local support.
- Training for people who can intervene: bank staff, aging services and law enforcement.

Final plate design is pending Tennessee Department of Revenue approval. The proposed plate and use of proceeds remain subject to legislative authorization. Registering interest is not a purchase or payment.

A visible statewide message with practical support.

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PROSECUTION WATCH | $147 MILLION INTERNATIONAL ELDER-FRAUD SCHEME | SENTENCED

DOJ announced November 20 that Jingbin Jiang was sentenced to 20 years in prison for leading an international scheme that stole about $147 million from more than 330 older victims; Tennessee was among the victim states. The operation used pop-ups and impersonation calls, fake government credentials, cash and gold couriers, and later sold gold for cryptocurrency moved overseas. Jiang previously pleaded guilty.

TNEJC takeaway: stopping organized fraud requires transaction interruption by families, financial institutions, retailers and law enforcement - not victim education alone.

DOJ, Southern District of New York - November 20, 2026

TRUSTED-PERSON EXPLOITATION | 78-YEAR-OLD DISABLED VETERAN | CHARGED

DOJ says Shawn Dmitrius Lightfoot was charged in D.C. with allegedly stealing about $150,000 from his next-door neighbor, a 78-year-old disabled veteran. The complaint alleges access to the veteran's mail, financial accounts, identifying information, Social Security and VA disability payments, including opening credit cards in the veteran's name. USPIS and VA OIG investigated. A complaint is an allegation; the defendant is presumed innocent.

DOJ, District of Columbia - November 17, 2026

MEDICARE WATCH | CMS CRUSH PROPOSED RULE | OPEN ENROLLMENT

CMS proposed the CRUSH rule November 16 and projects nearly $90 billion in taxpayer savings over 10 years through stronger provider screening, overpayment reporting, ownership transparency and tools aimed at abusive agents and brokers. It is a proposed rule, not final. Open Enrollment ends December 7: compare doctors, prescriptions, networks and total costs. Free TN SHIP: 1-877-801-0044.

HHS/CMS - November 16, 2026

LEGISLATIVE WATCH | H.R. 2478 | PASSED CONGRESS

The Financial Exploitation Prevention Act passed the Senate without amendment by unanimous consent November 18 after House passage 414-2 on June 25. It would allow qualifying mutual funds/transfer agents to delay certain redemption payments when exploitation of a specified adult is reasonably suspected. Presidential action was not independently confirmed at publication time.

U.S. Senate floor record - November 18, 2026

IF ABUSE, NEGLECT, MONEY OR INFORMATION IS ALREADY INVOLVED

For suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation, call Tennessee APS: 1-888-277-8366. Immediate danger: 911. If money was sent, contact the bank/payment provider now and ask for fraud assistance. Save messages, receipts and account details. Report internet-enabled crime at IC3.gov. Tell one trusted person today.

CHECK BEFORE YOU ACT TENNESSEE

Free education. Pause before money or information moves.

CheckBeforeYouActTN.org

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Interest only - no payment.

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