



## BC Crime Prevention Association

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Q: This is not the usual renovation scam, it is worse. My single, elderly aunt in Vancouver is being manipulated by a renovation contractor. Hired to build a new fence early in the year, he has convinced her to do more and more work and he and his crew are still there. No other estimates, no invoices, nothing in writing, and he started taking her shopping weekly a few months ago and now takes her to the bank. This is surely elder abuse and as her mental clarity weakens, but not to the point of incompetence, I am afraid she is going to lose her entire financial cushion. He also seems set on getting one of his men moved into her house: lots of sob stories about the guy. This scam artist is there pretty much daily and we family members cannot compete with that. What can we do to educate and protect a good but stubborn and brainwashed lady?

A: You should file a complaint with the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Authority [www.bccpa.ca](http://www.bccpa.ca) as soon as possible, and send a copy to the Better Business Bureau as well. But to prevent any further financial loss you should take charge of your aunt's financial affairs through a Power of Attorney and also notify the BC Coalition to Eliminate Abuse Against Seniors.