

Financial abuse in business

How to recognise the signs and seek help

Financial abuse in business is a serious form of domestic and family violence where someone uses power to control money, resources, and/or liabilities in a business setting against another person. This can occur alongside other forms of abuse, including coercion, emotional and physical abuse.

Some examples of financial abuse in business

- Being made a company director under duress or without your knowledge.
- Held liable for tax debts of a company you're not involved in.
- Forced to sign business documents.
- Pressured to open business bank accounts or change who can operate them.
- Coerced to borrow money for a business or acting as a loan guarantor.
- Blocked from accessing business information (e.g. banking passwords or signatories rights)
- Business assets unfairly transferred to a particular partner or entity.
- Your Tax File Number used to report payments you haven't received.

Business-related financial abuse can significantly affect individuals causing personal financial loss impacts to credit reporting, unexpected debts, and can even force the shutdown of a business.

If you're unsure if you or someone is experiencing financial abuse, please speak with one of the support services listed below.

How to get help

If you or someone you know is, or could be, experiencing any form of financial abuse, help is available. In an emergency, or if you're not feeling safe, always call **000**.

Support available

CommBank Business Financial Assistance

Assists CommBank business customers experiencing financial difficulty or might have future difficulty in meeting repayments.

13 26 07

https://www.commbank.com.au/business/support/financial-hardship.html

External support services and resources

Small Business Debt Helpline

Free, independent and confidential financial counselling to help small business owners and sole traders in financial difficulty.

1800 413 828

https://sbdh.org.au/

Beyond Blue NewAccess for Small Business Owners

Free and confidential mental health support for small business owners.

1300 945 301

https://www.beyondblue.org.au/get-support/newaccess-mental-health-coaching/small-business-owners

Request a free copy of your credit report to check your financial information and credit products in your name through:

Equifax

13 83 32

www.equifax.com.au

Check your myGov tax account or contact the ATO to check your personal and business tax accounts for any tax debt liabilities in your name and reported activity against your Tax File Number.

https://www.ato.gov.au/About-ATO/Contact-us

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