

PUBLIC POLICIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ELDERLY AGAINST PROPERTY CRIMES COMMITTED BY MANDATARIES

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ABSTRACT: The protection of the elderly from property crimes is a constant national concern, considering the assets accumulated by the elderly throughout their lives and their vulnerability in social relations. This study aims to analyze existing public policies for protecting the elderly against property crimes committed by mandataries, proposing improvements based on studies and international examples. The significance of this study lies in the need to strengthen the legal and social protection network for the elderly, ensuring their safety and dignity.

KEYWORDS: Public Policies, Property Crimes, Elderly Statute, Fundamental Rights.

INTRODUCTION

The protection of the elderly is an increasing concern in Brazil, particularly in light of the rise in property crimes targeting this vulnerable population. This article aims to analyze existing public policies for protecting the elderly against property crimes committed by mandataries, proposing improvements based on studies and international examples. The importance of this study resides in the need to strengthen the legal and social protection network for the elderly, ensuring their safety and dignity.

Internationally, the protection of the elderly is also of great relevance, reflecting a growing recognition of the need to ensure the dignity and safety of this vulnerable segment of the population. The origin of the concern for the protection of the elderly can be traced back to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, which established fundamental principles of equality and dignity applicable to all human beings. Although not specifically directed at the elderly, this declaration provided the foundation for subsequent discussions on the protection of the rights of the elderly.

A significant advancement in the protection of elderly rights occurred in 1982 with the First World Assembly on Ageing held by the United Nations in Vienna. This event led to the

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creation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, which established guidelines for the protection and promotion of elderly rights. The strengthening of protective policies continued in 1999 with the establishment of the International Day of Older Persons, aimed at raising global, social, and political awareness about elder abuse. The growth of the elderly population in Brazil, as revealed by IBGE data and the Demographic Census, presents significant challenges and opportunities. With the accelerated increase in the population aged 60 and over, there is a need to rethink and improve public policies to ensure effective protection for the elderly. This growth also leads to greater vulnerability to property crimes, with elderly individuals often becoming targets of fraud and financial abuse due to their trust in others and lack of familiarity with financial and legal matters.

Addressing these challenges is the focus of the present study, which adopts an integrated approach involving governmental initiatives, community collaboration, and participation from various sectors to ensure robust and effective protection against abuse and property crimes, thus promoting a more just and inclusive society for the elderly.

1. ORIGIN AND IMPORTANCE OF FUNDAMENTAL AND SPECIFIC PROTECTION FOR THE ELDERLY

The first significant aspect concerning the origin of the concern for the protection of the elderly was the initiative for dialogue between states: international diplomatic forums, with democratic public participation, played a crucial role in highlighting the issue. The involvement of all in the debate was only made possible with technological innovations in media, which facilitated the enhancement of scientific discussions on the subject.

In 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights established fundamental principles of equality and dignity for all human beings. Although not specific to the elderly, it served as an initial milestone for the protection of the fundamental rights of the elderly³.

In 1982, the United Nations convened the First World Assembly on Ageing in Vienna, which resulted in the International Plan of Action on Ageing⁴. This plan laid the foundation for the protection and promotion of elderly rights⁵.

In 1999, the United Nations General Assembly established the International Day of Older Persons to raise global, social, and political awareness about violence against the elderly, facilitating the mobilization of preventive actions and strengthening protective measures for the elderly. This day is celebrated on October 1st each year⁶.

³ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted and proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly (resolution 217 A III), on December 10, 1948 - article 1: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood."

⁴ United Nations, information obtained from the site: <https://unric.org/pt/envelhecimento/>

⁵ Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship, information obtained from the site: <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/navegue-por-temas/pessoa-idosa/acoes-e-programas-de-gestoes-antiores/plano-de-acao-internacional-para-o-envelhecimento>

⁶ BRASIL, information obtained from the site: <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt->

In 2002, the Madrid International Conference on Ageing led to the adoption of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, reaffirming the global commitment to protect and promote elderly rights. The conference resulted in the approval and advancement of recommendations from the International Plan of Action on Ageing, which had been under discussion for twenty years. Key measures included⁷:

- Support for international and national efforts aimed at developing research on ageing, ensuring that cultural and gender data produced by such research are available as inputs for policy formulation;
- Creation of a set of obligations for states and the reaffirmation and expansion of rights for this segment of the population;
- Clear definition of member states' obligations regarding the guarantee and promotion of rights outlined in the convention;
- Definition of a minimum set of human, civil, political, social, and economic rights, as well as prohibition and combat of violence and discrimination against the elderly;
- Creation of mechanisms for the protection of these rights, combating violence and discrimination against the elderly, and remedying victims of rights violations or discrimination;
- Addressing deficiencies and gaps in existing international documents on ageing;
- Serving as a reference for States Parties in the formulation and improvement of domestic legal norms related to the issue;
- Providing greater visibility and recognition of the need for protection and promotion of elderly rights, both domestically and internationally.

In 2003, Brazil enacted Law No. 10,741 on October 1, 2003, establishing the Elderly Statute, which sets forth fundamental rights and public policies focused on the protection and promotion of the quality of life of the elderly⁸. This legislation was enacted based on constitutional principles of equality, human dignity, and comprehensive protection, representing a significant advance in ensuring the rights of the elderly, recognizing their special condition and specific needs⁹.

br/assuntos/noticias/2018/junho/15-de-junho-e-o-dia-mundial-de-conscientizacao-da-violencia-contra-a-pessoa-idosa

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ BRASIL, Lei 10.741 de 1º de outubro de 2003 – estatuto do idoso: https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/Leis/2003/L10.741compilado.htm

⁹ “(...) In Brazil, the protection of the elderly as a vulnerable group is guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic - CR11 in Chapter II, which treats health as a “right of all and a duty of the State” (article 196), specifically by guaranteeing the welfare benefit of a monthly minimum wage to the elderly who prove that they do not have the means to provide for their own maintenance or have it provided for by their family¹² (article 203, V), and in Chapter VII, which provides for the rights of the family, children, adolescents, young people and the elderly (articles 226 to 230). The Constitution recognizes the family as the basis of society – therefore deserving special protection from the State (article 226). Article 226, § 8, provides that the State shall ensure assistance to the family in the person of each member

In 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), which are relevant to the protection of elderly rights¹⁰.

Legislative transformations and specific protection for the elderly are essential to ensure their rights, dignity, and well-being. Through these measures, it is possible to provide this population with special attention and appropriate needs, allowing them to confront discrimination and access health services, transportation, and social assistance fully. Furthermore, the evolution of the law has helped prevent abuse and neglect, promoting a fairer and more inclusive society.

Among the achievements in rights and guarantees over the years, considering the Elderly Statute and other related international documents, the following can be highlighted: (a) priority service in public and private services such as health, transportation, and leisure; (b) access to social benefits; (c) the right to access basic health services; (d) prohibition of any form of neglect, discrimination, or violence against the elderly, maintaining dignity and respect¹¹.

2. VULNERABILITY OF THE ELDERLY TO PROPERTY CRIMES IN BRAZIL:

The growth of the elderly population can also be seen as an opportunity for economic development. The elderly population in Brazil has been increasing significantly, necessitating a reevaluation of public policies designed to protect this substantial segment of the population. According to IBGE data, in 2019, there were approximately 32 million individuals aged 60 or older, representing about 15% of the total population¹².

of it, creating mechanisms to prevent violence within the scope of their relationships. The Constitution establishes that parents have the duty to assist, raise and educate their minor children, and that older children have the duty to help and support their parents in old age, need or illness (article 229).

Article 230 of the Constitution establishes that the family, society and the State have the duty to support the elderly, ensuring their participation in the community, defending their dignity and well-being and guaranteeing their right to life. The Constitution also provides that support programs for the elderly will preferably be carried out in their homes (article 230, § 1), and grants those over sixty-five years of age free urban public transportation (article 230, § 2). (...)

The constitutional framework favorable to the rights of the elderly in Brazil, as well as the repercussion of international discussions on the right to dignified and healthy aging, led to the enactment of Law 10.741/2003. The Elderly Statute is, in the Brazilian legal system, the norm that implements affirmative discrimination, or affirmative action, in a broad way, with the aim of overcoming the inequalities that exist between the elderly, as a vulnerable group, and society as a whole.

As preliminary provisions, in Title I, the Elderly Statute proposes to regulate the rights guaranteed to people aged sixty or over; and considers that the elderly enjoy all fundamental rights inherent to the human person, without prejudice to full protection, and must be assured, by law or by other means, all opportunities and facilities for the preservation of their physical and mental health and their moral, intellectual, spiritual and social improvement, in conditions of freedom and dignity.” (HATHAWAY, Gisela Santos de Alencar. Comentários ao Estatuto do Idoso – lei 10.741/2003, Consultoria legislativa, Estudo/Outubro –2015:

The elderly population in Brazil grew by 57.4% over 12 years, based on data from the 2020 Demographic Census. In 2010, the country had 25.7 million people aged 60 or older. By 2020, this number had risen to 40.5 million, representing 19.6% of the total population. This increase in the elderly population is a global phenomenon, but in Brazil, the pace is faster compared to other countries. Factors such as increased life expectancy, decreased fertility rates, and rural-to-urban migration contribute to this growth¹³.

The rise in the elderly population presents both challenges and opportunities for the country. It is necessary to invest in public policies that ensure the quality of life for the elderly, such as health care, social security, and housing. Conversely, the growth of the elderly population can also be viewed as an opportunity for economic development, such as the expansion of markets for products and services tailored to this demographic¹⁴. This demographic growth brings with it a range of challenges, including vulnerability to property crimes. Studies indicate that elderly individuals are frequently targeted by fraud and financial abuse due to their increased trust in others and, in many

cases, their lack of familiarity with financial and legal matters¹⁵.

The Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship provides an in-depth overview of violence against the elderly in Brazil, including the most common forms and appropriate measures to assist victims and their families. The study highlights physical violence as the most common type of aggression, characterized by pushing, slapping, kicking, biting, and even homicide. Psychological abuse, on the other hand, manifests through insults, humiliation, blackmail, and social isolation, causing emotional suffering and distress¹⁶.

In the 21st century, cases of neglect and abandonment persist, where victims are deprived of basic care such as food, hygiene, and medical attention, often resulting in extreme deprivation. Institutional violence occurs when elderly individuals suffer mistreatment in care facilities, such as nursing homes or hospitals¹⁷.

By recognizing the various forms of violence against the elderly and the tools available to combat it, it is possible to build a more just and supportive society for this crucial segment of the population. Among the numerous forms of violence endured by this significant portion of the population, particular attention in this study is given to those perpetrated by mandataries assigned to manage the assets and interests of the elderly, considering their use of technical expertise and the vulnerability of the elderly to achieve improper financial gains.

Regarding criminal offenses committed by mandataries, the primary interest lies in property crimes, which directly affect an individual's material and immaterial assets, such as fraud, theft, extortion, and embezzlement. In the specific context of the elderly, these crimes may be perpetrated by mandataries who hold powers to manage the financial interests of the elderly.

Mandataries are individuals appointed to manage the assets and interests of others, typically in situations where the owner is unable to do so independently, as is common among the elderly. Given the factors of vulnerability that lead to the hiring of such individuals by the elderly, the

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ BRASIL, Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship: <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2023/junho/violencias-contra-a-pessoa-idosa-saiba-quais-sao-as-mais-recorrentes-e-o-que-fazer-nesses-casos>.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

following can be highlighted: (a) increased trust in others; (b) lack of familiarity with financial and legal matters; (c) social isolation; (d) difficulties in mobility and communication.

Elderly individuals often exhibit a higher propensity to trust others, making them more susceptible to deception and manipulation. Frequently, elderly individuals lack familiarity with banking transactions, investments, and legal issues, making them easy targets for crimes exploiting this lack of knowledge. Social isolation can also hinder the identification of abusive situations and the pursuit of help, which is common among the elderly, leading to not only the studied social problem but also others.

Elderly individuals with health or mobility issues may face difficulties in moving and communicating, which can hinder their ability to seek help and exacerbate their vulnerability to abuse. Typically, this segment of the population is unprepared for old age and ends up aging without adequate physical and mental preparation to maintain a healthy routine.

After analyzing the factors of vulnerability, it is important to emphasize that this is not a specific concern of Brazil but a global issue, requiring an interdisciplinary approach in Public Policies for a viable solution for this important segment of the population. To illustrate the global nature of the problem, albeit with variable peculiarities in each territory, Japan faces a rise in elderly individuals who strive to be imprisoned for minor crimes. These actions are driven by loneliness, social isolation, and a lack of prospects in old age; these individuals find in prison a refuge and a sense of community that has been denied to them in the outside world¹⁸.

Mandataries exploit these factors of vulnerability, using their technical and emotional trust to improperly benefit themselves, which can be illustrated by: unauthorized sale of properties,

¹⁸ A BBC report reveals a peculiar phenomenon in Japan: the increase in elderly people who are trying to get arrested for minor crimes. Motivated by loneliness, social isolation and a lack of prospects in old age, these individuals find refuge and a sense of community in prison that they have been denied in the outside world. Japan has the largest elderly population in the world, with more than 27% of its inhabitants over the age of 65. This rapid population ageing, combined with Japan's individualistic culture and lack of social support networks, creates an environment conducive to the emergence of this phenomenon. Chronic loneliness is a serious problem among Japanese elderly people, who often find themselves isolated from family and community due to the country's strenuous work culture and the value placed on independence. Retirement can be a difficult time for many Japanese elderly people, who feel undervalued and without purpose in life. Prison, on the other hand, offers a sense of community, structure and routine that they lack in the outside world.

Depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses can contribute to the desire for incarceration, leading seniors to seek out prison as a way to escape their painful reality.

Japanese Prison System: The Japanese prison system is known for its humane conditions, with small cells and little social interaction. However, for some seniors, these conditions represent a refuge from the loneliness and isolation they face at home. Japanese prisons offer inmates a variety of activities, such as work, education, and recreation, which can give seniors a sense of purpose and belonging.

Japanese culture traditionally stigmatizes ex-prisoners, which can make it difficult for seniors to reintegrate into society after serving their sentences.

Public policies and social initiatives should be directed towards combating loneliness and isolation among seniors by promoting social interaction, access to activities, and strengthening support networks.

Continuing education programs, job opportunities, and valuing seniors' experiences can contribute to a more active, engaged, and meaningful aging process.

Facilitated access to mental health services, awareness campaigns and combating stigma are essential to help seniors who suffer from mental illness.

Programs to support social reintegration, such as professional training, guidance for the job market and psychological counseling, can help seniors reintegrate into society after serving their sentences. The phenomenon of Japanese seniors who strive to be arrested is a reflection of the social and psychological challenges faced by this segment of the population. Through targeted public policies, social initiatives and humanized approaches, it is possible to build a more just and inclusive society, where all seniors have the opportunity to live a dignified and full old age. (BBC, News Brasil, information obtained from the site: <https://www.bbc.com/portuguese/geral-47086935>)

embezzlement of pension funds, and manipulation of bank accounts with unauthorized transfers.

The fiduciary relationship imposes on the prosecutor the duty to act with honesty and in the best interests of the elderly. However, bad faith or negligence on the part of mandataries can lead to significant financial harm, placing the elderly in situations of extreme vulnerability.

Brazilian legislation includes specific provisions for the protection of the elderly, such as the Elderly Statute (Law No. 10,741/2003), which establishes rights and protective measures. Additionally, the Penal Code and the Civil Code provide sanctions for property crimes. Nevertheless, despite these relevant legal frameworks, practical enforcement still faces significant challenges, highlighting the need for improvement and increased oversight.

To illustrate the specific deficiency in the implementation of public policies for the specific protection of the elderly, a curious factor from Rio de Janeiro can be highlighted: the specialized elder protection police station does not operate twenty-four hours a day¹⁹. This factor should not be seen as a criticism, as the state of Rio de Janeiro is an example of specialized care for the elderly, with a well-located police station to serve this segment of the population. Comparatively, in other parts of the world, there is often less concern, meaning that the little that exists can already be considered a significant advancement on a global scale.

3. PROTECTIVE PUBLIC POLICIES FOR THE ELDERLY AGAINST PROPERTY CRIMES IN BRAZIL

Currently, Brazil has numerous public policies aimed at protecting the elderly, including social assistance programs, telephone support lines, and awareness campaigns. However, the effectiveness of these policies is variable and often limited by a lack of resources and coordination among different levels of government and institutions.

The main shortcomings of current public policies include insufficient oversight, a lack of financial education programs for the elderly, and a shortage of accessible legal assistance. This segment of the population often lacks full knowledge of their rights or how to proceed in cases of abuse, which exacerbates their vulnerability.

To enhance the protection of the elderly, it is crucial to implement financial and legal education programs, increase oversight and control over the actions of mandataries, and strengthen reporting and protection mechanisms. International examples, such as the guardianship system in Sweden, can serve as models for improving Brazilian public policies. As GERDT SUNDSTRÖM²⁰ notes in his analysis of Swedish public policies:

Sweden's long-term care has a history spanning several centuries, and this reliance on the path may explain both its successes and some glaring failures. The prevalence rates of home help - home health care and/or institutional care - have decreased, but most elderly people in need receive what they require at the end of their lives, albeit less than before and for a shorter period. The

¹⁹ Information obtained from the site: <https://copacabana24horas.com.br/o-bairro/emergencias/delegacia-do-idoso/deapti-delegacia-especial-de-atendimento-pessoa-da-terceira-idade/#:~:text=DEAPTI%20%E2%80%93%20Delegacia%20Especial%20de%20Atendimento%20%C3%A0%20Pessoa,%3A%20197%20Pol%C3%ADcia%20Civil%20%E2%80%93%208h%20%C3%A1s%2017hs.>

²⁰ SUNDSTRÖM, Gert. Cuidados de longa duração na Suécia: reflexões sobre serviços públicos, cuidados familiares, serviços privados, trabalho voluntário e organizações de reformados, artigo disponível no portal: <<https://cenie.eu/pt/cuidados-de-longa-duracao-na-suecia-reflexoes-sobre-servicos-publicos-cuidados-familiares-servicos>>, accessed on 15.08.2024.

historical reliance on local funding and administration has always resulted in varying availability and quality of public services. These local units are protected by the constitution and are very difficult for the national government to manage. Swedes are well-organized in local and national associations and have a history of social and cultural homogeneity. Trust in authorities and others is characteristic of Sweden and other Nordic countries. This includes the willingness to pay high taxes, provided that the authorities are seen as valuing the money. A new feature of the social fabric is the recent strengthening of family ties, with more elderly people living in partnerships and many more having children. This is also reflected in an increase in informal caregiving, as demonstrated in various studies.

Regarding property crimes, education and awareness are crucial for prevention. Programs aimed at informing the elderly and their families about risks, rights, and legal procedures are essential. Initiatives such as lectures, workshops, and media campaigns can significantly enhance the resilience of the elderly against fraud and abuse. However, these initiatives cannot be isolated; they require participation from all public and private sectors for improved outcomes.

Public and private institutions play a crucial role in protecting the elderly. Partnerships between governments, NGOs, and the private sector can amplify protection efforts. Examples include collaboration in establishing support centers and implementing joint monitoring and oversight programs. In Brazil, the public sector has been gradually contributing to initiatives aimed at preventing and controlling potential fraudulent mandatories.

Following Recommendation 47 from the National Justice Council (CNJ), the Chief Justice of Rio de Janeiro, Judge Ricardo Rodrigues Cardozo, mandated that all notary offices in the state must record on video the notarization procedures involving individuals aged 80 or older²¹.

This decision aims to combat the concerning rise in property crimes against the elderly. Data from the Ministry of Women, Family, and Human Rights reveal a significant increase in these cases. In 2019, there was a 19% increase in reports, and the situation worsened in 2020, with the pandemic and social isolation contributing to an even more critical scenario²².

To address this issue, the CNJ has advised that notarial and registration services in Brazil implement preventive measures to protect the elderly from abuse. Provision CGJ 69/2021 was created to protect individuals in vulnerable situations, particularly those over 80 years old, aiming to prevent fraudulent actions that could compromise their assets²³.

In response, the General Justice Department of Rio de Janeiro adjusted the Code of Norms of the General Justice Department – Extrajudicial Part, introducing Article 239-

A. This regulation stipulates that notarial acts involving individuals aged 80 or older must be recorded on video. The recording must show the presence of at least two notary staff members, except when the act is conducted through the e-notarized platform²⁴.

Acts that need to be filmed include the disposition of inheritance, bank account transactions, the granting of power of attorney (including for social security purposes), the sale or pledge of real estate, aircraft, and vessels, third-party management of assets, and the recognition,

²¹ CNJ Recommendation: Rio's Internal Affairs Department seeks to curb patrimonial violence against the elderly, article available on the portal: <https://www.conjur.com.br/2021-set-03/corregedoria-rio-busca-coibir-violencia-patrimonial-idosos/>, accessed on 08/15/2024.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ *Ibid.*

establishment, or dissolution of common-law marriages, among other acts that might create expectations of future recognition or dissolution²⁵.

These new guidelines aim to provide greater security and transparency in transactions involving financial and property aspects, thus protecting the elderly from potential abuses²⁶.

Oversight and control must be improved to prevent property crimes. This includes the establishment of specialized agencies for elderly protection, continuous training of professionals to detect and intervene in abuse cases, and the implementation of auditing systems to monitor the management of elderly assets.

In addition to the mentioned governmental initiatives, private programs for digital literacy and the development of accessible online security tools should be highlighted for better elderly protection. The community needs to participate in promoting not only education but also virtual support in small transactions, such as the use of electronic devices.

Property crimes against the elderly have a significant social impact, affecting not only the direct victims but also their families and society at large. The economic consequences include the loss of lifetime savings and increased dependence on social assistance. Socially, these crimes undermine trust in justice and protection systems.

Final recommendations include the implementation of education and awareness programs, strengthening oversight and legal support, and creating specific policies for the digital protection of the elderly. It is also essential to foster cooperation between different levels of government and civil society to ensure more effective and comprehensive protection.

CONCLUSION

The protection of the elderly from property crimes committed by mandataries is of utmost importance and urgency. This article provided a general analysis of existing public policies in Brazil, identified shortcomings, and proposed improvements based on the current study:

The first crucial measure is the creation of specialized agencies for the protection of the elderly. These agencies can directly address the prevention and combat of property abuse, offering specialized support and dedicated resources. Additionally, continuous training for professionals involved in detecting and intervening in abuse cases is fundamental. This includes lawyers, social workers, and financial institution employees, who should be trained to identify signs of abuse and act appropriately.

To ensure transparent and secure management of elderly assets, the implementation of auditing systems is indispensable. These systems should continuously monitor financial transactions and asset management, detecting irregularities and preventing possible fraud. The integration of advanced technologies, such as monitoring software and artificial intelligence, can enhance the effectiveness of these audits.

Continuous legal support is essential for elderly protection. Free legal assistance services, such as those provided by the Public Defender's Office, play a crucial role and should be expanded and strengthened. The creation of specialized units in elderly law, both in the public and private

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ *Ibid.*

sectors, can provide more effective and targeted support, addressing the specific needs of this vulnerable group.

In addition to governmental initiatives, elderly protection can also be improved through private digital literacy programs. These programs should teach the elderly how to use technology safely and effectively, preventing online fraud and abuse. Developing accessible and intuitive online security tools is equally important. Apps and platforms offering protection against scams and personalized technical support can help the elderly conduct transactions safely and maintain their privacy.

Community involvement is crucial in promoting elderly protection. The community should engage in initiatives that aim to educate and support the elderly, particularly in using electronic devices and conducting online transactions. Promoting community workshops on digital security and providing virtual support for small transactions are effective ways to provide an additional layer of protection.

These combined strategies aim to create a safer environment for the elderly, preventing abuse and ensuring they can manage their assets and finances in a protected and dignified manner. Collective effort among governments, institutions, and civil society is essential to achieve this goal.

Protection against digital property crimes is increasingly relevant. Specific policies to protect the elderly in online transactions and against digital fraud are needed. This includes implementing digital literacy programs and developing accessible online security tools.

Comparative studies with public policies from other countries can provide valuable insights. Countries such as Canada and Australia have robust elderly protection programs, emphasizing education and legal support. Analyzing these policies can help identify best practices and adapt effective solutions to the Brazilian context.

The need for robust and coordinated public policies that ensure the safety and dignity of the elderly, preventing abuse and providing adequate legal and social support, is reiterated.

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