



PREVENTION OF ELDER ABUSE:

What Can We Do?

Be Alert! Report Suspected Abuse!

Abusing a person age 60 or older is a crime. Each year hundreds of thousands of older persons are abused, exploited or abandoned or suffer from neglect. Many victims are people who are older, frail, and vulnerable and cannot help themselves and depend on others to meet their most basic needs. Abusers are both women and men and may be strangers or acquaintances—but may well be family members, friends, or “trusted others”.

What is ELDER ABUSE?

Examples of elder abuse are:

1. Inflicting physical pain, injury or mental anguish, or depriving services which are necessary for the elder’s physical and mental health
2. Failing to provide or arrange for necessary services by the person(s) obligated to do so
3. Taking advantage of an elder whether for monetary, personal or other benefit, gain or profit
4. Neglecting duties and obligations owed the elder by a caregiver or other person



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What are some signs of possible abuse?

- **Physical Abuse**—Bruises, pressure marks, broken bones, abrasions
- **Verbal or Emotional Abuse**—Unexplained withdrawal from normal activities, a sudden change in alertness, and unusual depression; strained or tense relationships; frequent arguments with caregivers; behavior such as belittling, threats, and other uses of power and control by spouses
- **Exploitation**—Sudden changes in financial situations
- **Neglect**—Bedsore, unattended medical needs, poor hygiene, and unusual weight loss (by others or self)
- **Be Alert!**—The suffering is often in silence. If you notice changes in personality or behavior, you should start to question what is going on

How do I report suspected types of abuse or get help?

Call the PSE Central Intake Line at 1-888-385-4225 or 2-1-1 (after business hours). The Department of Social Services, Protective Services for the Elderly (PSE) takes calls not only from specifically state-mandated reporters but also from friends, neighbors, family members, or others who may suspect an elderly person is being abused or needs help due to self-neglect. Reporters may remain anonymous and cannot be held liable in civil or criminal court when reports are made in good faith. It is not your role to verify that abuse is occurring, only to alert others of your suspicions.

CONTACTS

For more information about ways to increase awareness and prevention of Elder Abuse:
Contact your Area Agency on Aging at 1-800-994-9422



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