Report elder abuse: It’s the law!

State of CT main line for Protective Services for the Elderly:
(1-888-385-4225)

District Offices:

Bridgeport
Telephone: 203-551-2701

New Haven
Telephone: 203-974-8029

Stamford
Telephone: 203-251-9392

For more information, please visit:

State of CT Department on Aging:
(1-860-424-5274)
www.ct.gov/agingservices

National Center for Elder Abuse:
www.ncea.aoa.gov

National Committee to Prevent Elder Abuse:
www.preventelderabuse.org

Office of the Victim Advocate
505 Hudson Street, 5th Floor
Hartford, CT, 06106
860-550-6632
Toll Free 1-888-771-3126
Fax: 860-560-7065
www.ct.gov/ova

A Guide to Dealing with Elder Abuse
### What is elder abuse?

According to Connecticut statutes 17b-450-452, elder abuse includes, but is not limited to:

- The willful infliction of physical pain, injury or mental anguish to a person aged 60 or older
- The willful deprivation by a caretaker of services which are necessary to maintain physical and mental health to a person aged 60 or older

According to the National Center on Elder Abuse, there are seven types of abuse:

- **Physical Abuse**: the use of physical force that may result in bodily injury, physical pain, or impairment
- **Sexual Abuse**: non-consensual sexual contact of any kind with an elderly person
- **Emotional or Psychological Abuse**: the infliction of anguish, pain, or distress through verbal or nonverbal acts
- **Neglect**: the refusal or failure to fulfill any part of a person's obligations or duties to an elder
- **Abandonment**: the desertion of an elderly person by an individual who has assumed responsibility for providing care for an elder
- **Financial or Material Exploitation**: the illegal or improper use of an elder's funds, property, or assets
- **Self-neglect**: the behavior of an elderly person that threatens his/her own health or safety

### What are some signs and symptoms of elder abuse?

- Bruises, welts, black eyes, lacerations, and unhealed wounds
- The caregiver’s refusal to allow the elder to be seen alone
- Being extremely withdrawn, non-communicative, or unresponsive
- Being emotionally upset or agitated
- Hazardous or unsafe living conditions/arrangements
- The desertion of an elder in a public shopping area, or nursing facility
- Abrupt changes in bank accounts, wills, or other financial documents
- The inclusion of additional signatures on financial documents
- Inappropriate and/or inadequate clothing, lack of necessary medical aids

*Please note that not all victims of elder abuse display these signs. Depending on the type of abuse, the symptoms will vary.*

### What can family and friends do to help?

- Visit an elderly person often and make time to talk with them in private
- Familiarize oneself with the symptoms of elder abuse and helpful resources
- Be observant and speak up when something seems wrong
- Always report suspected abuse

### What can older adults do to protect themselves?

- Tell a trusted person about the abuse
- Refrain from giving away money, social security and credit card information
- Have a trusted person review documents before they are signed
- Seek medical help when needed and confide in the doctor if abuse is occurring

### Is elder abuse a big problem?

- According to a recent study, about 10% of the elderly population experiences abuse
- A recent estimate also states that only about 1 in 14 cases of elder abuse is reported to authorities
- Unfortunately, as the population of elderly people expands, so does the risk for elder abuse
- Another disturbing trend in elder abuse is that about 90% of the abusers are family members of the victim