

# ELDER ABUSE—DID YOU KNOW?



## Report Elder Abuse

If someone is in **immediate danger**, call **911** or the **local police** for immediate help. You may also contact the **Eldercare Locator** on weekdays for state specific information at:

**1-800-677-1116.**

**Elder Abuse refers to any negligent act by a caregiver or any other adult that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable adult. Types of Abuse:**

- **Physical Abuse**—inflicting physical pain or injury
- **Sexual Abuse**—touching, fondling, intercourse or any other sexual activity
- **Emotional Abuse**—verbal assaults, threats of abuse, harassment or intimidation
- **Confinement**—restraining or isolating for other than medical reasons
- **Passive Neglect**—failure to provide life's necessities, including food, clothing, shelter, or medical care
- **Willful Deprivation**—willfully denying medication, medical care, shelter, food, a therapeutic device or other physical assistance

### What are the signs of abuse:

Injury incompatible with explanation  
Cuts, lacerations, or puncture wounds  
Bruises, welts, discoloration, and multistage healing  
Dehydration, malnourishment, or weight loss  
Pallor or poor skin hygiene  
Sunken eyes or cheeks  
Inadequate care such as bedsores  
Eye problems, retinal detachment  
Pulled out hair  
Soiled clothing or bed; left in waste  
Burns, such as cigarettes, acids or ropes  
Locked in room; tied to furniture or toilet  
Broken bones

### Financial indicators:

Unpaid bills when income is adequate  
Food, clothing and care needs not met  
Overcharged for rent or services  
Complaints of theft of property or jewelry  
Missing checks, jewelry or other valuables  
Suspicious Power of attorney  
Suspicious changes in titles to property  
Promises of care in exchange for assets  
ATM transactions by homebound elder  
Large or unusual bank transactions

### Family and Behavioral indicators:

Indifference or hostility  
Excessive blaming of the older adult  
Problems with alcohol or drugs  
Previous history of violence  
Social isolation of the victim  
Conflicting accounts of incidents  
Threats and intimidation  
**Behavioral indicators:**  
Withdrawn, depressed, resigned, helpless  
Hesitates to talk openly  
Implausible stories for injuries or events