

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Withdrawn, depressed, resigned, helpless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