



Elder Abuse

Something Can Be Done

Elder abuse is any harm done to an older person caused by a relative, friend, caregiver or person on whom the older person relies for their basic needs.

ABUSE MAY TAKE ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING FORMS

Physical

- assault
- sexual assault
- unnecessary physical restraint
- burns, cuts, bruises, rope marks or welts

Neglect

- abandonment
- failing to provide adequate food, medical services or basic needs

Financial

- theft or misuse of pension cheques, money or property
- forcing an older person to change a will or sell personal property
- misuse of Power of Attorney
- fraud, forgery or extortion

Psychological

- threatening, yelling, insulting, ignoring or frightening
- treating an older person as a child

WHO ARE THE ABUSED?

- They generally know and trust their abusers.
- Most victims are mentally competent and able to make decisions for themselves.
- Older persons who depend on others for daily care may be more at risk.
- Who are the Abusers? Usually someone who has control or influence over the older person.
- Abusers are frequently dependent on the older person for money or a place to live.
- Individuals with a history of drug or alcohol abuse, or family violence.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS?

- unexplained physical injuries
- poor hygiene, bedsores
- anxiety, depression, fearful
- malnutrition or dehydration
- over-sedation
- unpaid bills or missing property without explanation



WHY THE SILENCE?

- fear or retaliation or punishment
- afraid of being placed in an institution
- shame, if the abuser is a Family member

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

If you are being abused, know someone who might be abused, or are an abuser, you can seek help from a public health nurse, social worker, doctor, lawyer or the police.