

WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?

In general, elder abuse refers to intentional or neglectful acts by a caregiver or “trusted” individual that lead to, or may lead to, harm of a vulnerable elder. *In many states, younger adults with disabilities may qualify for the same services and protections.* **Physical abuse; neglect; emotional or psychological abuse; financial abuse and exploitation; sexual abuse; and abandonment** are considered forms of elder abuse. In many states, **self-neglect** is also considered mistreatment.

WHO IS AT RISK?

Elder abuse can occur *anywhere* – in the home, in nursing homes, or other institutions. It affects seniors across all socio-economic groups, cultures, and races.

Based on available information, women and “older” elders are more likely to be victimized. Dementia is a significant risk factor. Mental health and substance abuse issues – of both abusers and victims – are risk factors. Isolation can also contribute to risk.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SUSPECT ABUSE?

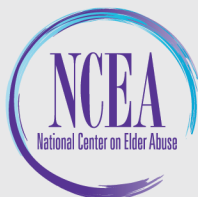
Report your concerns.

Most cases of elder abuse go undetected. Don’t assume that someone has already reported a suspicious situation. The agency receiving the report will ask what you observed, who was involved, and who they can contact to learn more.

You do not need to prove that abuse is occurring; it is up to the professionals to investigate the suspicions.

» **To report suspected abuse in the community**, contact your local Adult Protective Services agency. For state reporting numbers, visit www.apsnetwork.org, visit the NCEA website at www.ncea.aoa.gov or call the *Eldercare Locator* at **1-800-677-1116**.

» **To report suspected abuse in a nursing home or long-term care facility**, contact your local Long-Term Care Ombudsman. For reporting numbers, visit www.ltombudsman.org, visit the NCEA website at www.ncea.aoa.gov or call the *Eldercare Locator* at **1-800-677-1116**.



The National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) directed by the U.S. Administration on Aging, helps communities, agencies and organizations ensure that elders and adults with disabilities can live with dignity, and without abuse, neglect, and exploitation. We are based at University of California, Irvine Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse & Neglect, Program in Geriatrics. NCEA is the place to turn for **education, research, and promising practices in stopping abuse.**

PREPARED FOR NCEA BY:



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ON ELDER ABUSE AND NEGLECT
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