

Elder Abuse

Social isolation, dependency on others, mental impairment, limited mobility, and caregiver stress increase risk of elder abuse.



Types of Abuse

Elder abuse can occur in **any setting** and be perpetrated **by anyone**, though it most frequently involves **family members**. Caregivers must remain vigilant for various forms of elder abuse, including **physical**, **emotional**, **neglect**, **financial**, **abandonment**, and **sexual**.

Prevent & Identify

Identify signs of elder abuse by checking for **unexplained injuries**, **behavioral changes** like fearfulness, and **signs of neglect** such as poor hygiene or malnutrition. Observe care recipients regularly to spot these indicators early.

Take Action

If you suspect your loved one is being abused, **talk to them** first. If you are still concerned, report the suspected abuse by contacting **Adult Protective Services** or **the police**. **Long-Term Care Ombudsman** can be contacted if they live in a nursing or assisted living facility.

After Abuse

Make the victim's **safety a priority** and **provide emotional support**. Seek professional help from healthcare providers, counselors, and social services. **Document any evidence of abuse**, and make sure the victim receives **ongoing support** and protection.

Supporting Abused Older Adults

When elder abuse is reported, authorities like **adult protective services** or law enforcement investigate to verify details and assess risk. **Protective measures** may include:

- **Removing the person** from harm or providing close supervision.
- **Assigning social workers** and **healthcare professionals** to address the person's needs.
- Taking **legal action** against the perpetrator(s).
- Providing **ongoing support** and **monitoring** to help prevent future abuse.