



# **WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY**

Building Strong Support for Elders

**June 15**

**MAKE IT EVERY  
DAY.**

**Information about Elder Abuse,  
Neglect, and Exploitation**

# Information about Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation

## What is Elder Abuse?

Elder abuse is intentional or negligent acts by a caregiver or trusted individual that hams an older person. Forms include:

- ◇ Neglect or Isolation
- ◇ Physical or Sexual abuse
- ◇ Financial abuse and exploitation
- ◇ Emotional or psychological abuse (including verbal abuse, threats).

## Elder Abuse Risk Factors

- Dementia
- Social isolation
- Poor health
- Mental health or substance abuse issues of perpetrator or elder

## Why is Elder Abuse a Problem?

The costs of elder abuse are high for those affected and society alike. Losses can be tangible (life savings and homes) and intangible (dignity, independence, and lives).

Many who experience elder abuse are reluctant to report because they may:

- ◇ Feel ashamed and embarrassed , especially if a family member is the perpetrator
- ◇ Fear being forced to live in a nursing home—this sometimes happens
- ◇ Be afraid the perpetrator will get into trouble
- ◇ Feel guilty or to blame
- ◇ Be in denial that abuse is occurring, or unaware that what they are experiencing is abuse or neglect
- ◇ Be afraid that reporting will cause the abuse to get worse

## Elder Abuse Warning Signs

- ◇ Unexplained bruising, cuts, burns, sprains, fractures, dislocations.
- ◇ Repeated hospital admissions.
- ◇ Agitation, anxiety, withdrawal, isolation.
- ◇ Fear, depressions, anger, resignation.
- ◇ Hesitation to talk openly or non-responsiveness.
- ◇ Unusual activity in bank accounts.
- ◇ Changes in Power of Attorney (POA), wills, or house titles when the elder is incapable of decisions.
- ◇ Forged signatures on documents.
- ◇ Caregiver promises for lifelong care in exchange for property or financial assets.
- ◇ Dehydration or malnutrition, noticeable weight loss.
- ◇ Poor hygiene, housekeeping or hoarding.
- ◇ Incontinence that has not been treated.
- ◇ Other serious unmet medical needs.

## How to Report Elder Abuse

In an emergency dial **911**

Non emergency please contact the Aging and Disability Resource Center of the North at **1-866-663-3607**



**Caring about elder abuse is caring about justice for all.**



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