

To Report Financial Abuse or Fraud

- To report the misuse of a Veteran's VA benefits, call 1-800-488-8244 or email VAOIGHotline@VA.gov
- You may also contact the Veterans Benefits Administration at 1-800-827-1000 or VA Fiduciary Hub at 1-888-407-0144
- For assistance concerning VA Extended Care & Home Care fraud, email VHAPurchasedLTSSSupportGroup@va.gov
- Visit the **Elder Abuse Resource Roadmap: Financial** to find the right reporting agency for financial harms at elderjustice.gov/roadmap



Other Helpful Resources

- Visit the Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse & Neglect's Veteran website <http://www.centeronelderabuse.org/veterans.asp>
- *A Guide for VA Fiduciaries* can be downloaded at http://benefits.va.gov/FIDUCIARY/Fid_Guide.pdf

For more information about the Department of Justice's efforts to prevent and combat elder abuse, please visit the Elder Justice Website at:

elderjustice.gov

elderjustice.gov

How to Get Immediate Help

Call 911

For life threatening circumstances

Call the Veterans Crisis Line

If you are in imminent danger and would like immediate assistance

1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255), Press 1
<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>

Contact your local Adult Protective Services

Find your local Adult Protective Services office using the locator map

<http://www.napsa-now.org/get-help/help-in-your-area/>

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Get the facts about

Elder Abuse
*Empowering
Older Veterans*



Older Veterans may be at Risk for Elder Abuse

- Almost 10 million Veterans are 65 or older. National studies find that over 10% of older adults are victims of elder abuse annually.
- Exposure to combat and military sexual trauma is associated with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and physical, mental health, alcohol, and drug problems. These problems are known to put older adults at risk for abuse and financial exploitation.
- Family members and caretakers may encourage or force older Veterans to take drugs or drink excessively to make them “easier” to care for or exploit financially.
- Veterans who have poor relationships with their families may not receive adequate care by these family members.
- Veterans who receive Veteran benefits such as a VA pension, VA Compensation per VBA, or Aid and Attendance can be at risk for financial abuse.
- As a result of providing care for an older Veteran with physical and mental health problems, caregivers may experience a decline in their own physical and mental health.

Warning Signs by Type of Abuse

Physical Abuse

- Bruises, black eyes, welts, lacerations, or rope marks
- Broken eyeglasses
- Medication overdose or under-utilization of prescribed drugs
- A sudden change in behavior

Psychological Abuse

- Being emotionally upset, agitated, withdrawn, non-communicative, or non-responsive
- Unusual behavior such as sucking, biting, or rocking
- The caregiver’s refusal to allow visitors to see an older Veteran alone
- Apologizing excessively

Sexual Abuse

- Bruises around the breasts or genital area
- Unexplained venereal disease or genital infections
- Showing fear or becoming withdrawn when around a specific person
- Unexplained blood found on sheets, linens, or clothing

Neglect and Abandonment

- Dehydration, malnutrition, untreated bed sores, and poor personal hygiene
- Unattended or untreated health problems
- Unsanitary, unclean, or unsafe living conditions
- The desertion of an older Veteran at a shopping center or other public location

Financial Abuse

- Unexplained changes in bank accounts or banking practices
- Abrupt changes in a will or other financial documents
- Unexplained disappearance of funds or valuable possessions
- Sudden unexplained transfer of assets