

GET INVOLVED, GET SAFE

Prevent Elder Abuse

A Caregiver's Guide



Elder abuse can happen to anyone and is more common than you think.

It happens when an older adult is harmed on purpose or is neglected.

The abuser can be a family member, friend, or caregiver. Abusers can also be strangers who get in touch with older adults by phone, email, mail, social media, or the internet.

Elder abuse often happens in private. You are the eyes and ears into a potentially abusive situation and your help is critical.

SUPPORT OLDER ADULTS WHO MAY BE EXPERIENCING ABUSE

LEARN

Learn the warning signs of different types of elder abuse so you know what to look for.

LISTEN

Keep a neutral reaction when you learn someone may be experiencing abuse. Focus on the older person's safety and wellbeing.

RESPECT

Acknowledge how the person is feeling. Let them know that you believe them and that the abuse is not their fault.

SUPPORT

Remind the person that help and support is available. Consider helping them create a safety plan.

TYPES OF ELDER ABUSE

Physical: Use of force to threaten or physically injure an older person

Emotional: Verbal attacks, threats, rejection, isolation, or belittling acts that cause or could cause mental anguish, pain, or distress to an older person

Sexual: Sexual contact that is forced, tricked, threatened, or otherwise coerced upon an older person, including anyone who is unable to grant consent

Financial: Theft, fraud, misuse or neglect of authority, and use of undue influence as a lever to gain control over an older person's money or property

Neglect: Failure or refusal to provide for an older person's safety, physical, or emotional needs



Caregiver Support

FIND HELP



Providing care is important and meaningful work, but it can be challenging. Here are resources to help you take care of yourself:

Family Caregiver Alliance and Support Groups

Improving the quality of the life for family caregivers and the people who receive their care.

Eldercare Locator or Helpline 1-800-677-1116

Connecting people to services for older adults and their families.

Compassion Fatigue Awareness Project

Offering resources for caregivers working in many professions to manage compassion fatigue.

REPORT ABUSE



Help an older adult report abuse to adult protective services, or you can call yourself. You do not have to give your name.

If this is urgent,
call 9-1-1

Eldercare Locator

To report elder abuse, find your local adult protective services by calling **1-800-677-1116**

National Elder Fraud Hotline

To report financial fraud, call **1-833-FRAUD-11**

National Center for Disaster Fraud Hotline

To report COVID-19 fraud, call **1-866-720-5721**



Visit the Elder Justice Website
elderjustice.gov

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ElderJustice
INITIATIVE

