

Elder Abuse and Neglect – Tips and Resources from PTI Webinar – Oct. 14, 2021

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Older Adult Risk Factors for Being Abused and Neglected

- Social isolation
- Mental impairment
- Conflict and strained family relationships
- Dependence

Key Terms

- Elder abuse: An intentional act or failure to act by a caregiver or “trusted” individual that causes or creates a risk of harm to an older adult.
- Vulnerable adult: A person who is unable to protect themselves due to a disability/infirmity.
- Polyvictimization: When an older adult is impacted by multiple forms of abuse, neglect or exploitation.
- Capacity to consent: An individual has sufficient understanding to make and communicate responsible decisions regarding their self and their property.

Types of Abuse

- Physical
- Emotional
- Psychological
- Sexual
- Neglect
- Financial

Red Flags of Physical Abuse

- Bruises
- Pressure marks
- Broken bones
- Open wounds, cuts, abrasions
- Burns
- Overdose

Red Flags of Emotional or Psychological Abuse

- Being suddenly or extremely withdrawn, non-communicative, non-responsive
- Unusual depression
- Sudden change in alertness
- Strained/tense relationships
- Frequent arguments between caregiver and older adult
- Disappearing from contact with neighbors, friends or family

Red Flags of Sexual Abuse

- Bruising around the breasts or genital area
- Unexplained STDs or infections
- Torn, stained, bloody under clothing
- Unexplained vaginal or anal bleeding

Red Flags of Financial Abuse/Exploitation

- Sudden change in financial situation
- A sudden large withdrawal of money
- Sudden change of bank

Red Flags of Neglect

- Dehydrated
- Malnourished/hungry/unusual weight loss
- Untreated bedsores
- Poor personal hygiene
- Untreated health issues
- Inappropriate living conditions
- Lack of medical aids

Red Flags of Self-Neglect

- Dehydrated
- Malnourished/hungry/unusual weight loss
- Poor personal hygiene
- Untreated health issues
- Inappropriate or inadequate living conditions
- Inadequate or inappropriate clothing or medical aids

What Should you do?

- Look for Signs
- Emergency- call 911
- Report to Adult Protective Services

Abuse Reporting

- In Florida, everyone is a mandated reporter for Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation.
- Florida Abuse Hotline: 1-800-96-ABUSE

State Resources

- Elder Helpline: 1-800-963-5337
- Long-term Care Ombudsman Program 1-888-831-0404
- Statewide Senior Legal Helpline: 1-888-895-7873
- Florida Elder Law Risk Detector Tool:
<https://probononet.neotalogic.com/a/doeafi>
- Department of Elder Affairs: Elder Abuse Prevention Program
http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us/doea/abuse_prevention.php

Local Resources

- Elder Options Helpline: 1-800-262-2243
M-F; 8a – 5p
 - Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network
24/7 Helpline: 352-377-8255
 - Alachua County Crisis Center
24/7 Helpline: 352-264-6789
 - Alachua County Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center
24/7 Helpline: 352-264-6760
- Kimberly Henderson, Elder Abuse Project Coordinator
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