



Stop Elder ABUSE

A Safety Net for Elder Adults



What is Elder Abuse?

The mistreatment or neglect of an older person, usually by a relative or caregiver. It includes: physical violence, threats, verbal abuse, financial exploitation, emotional abuse, neglect, violation of an older person's privacy or other basic rights.

Why should I know about Elder Abuse?

Because it's an extremely serious problem. Elder abuse is very common and often hidden. Incidents occur with alarming frequency in families from all backgrounds and in every part of the U.S. Most cases go unreported. Many victims are ashamed or unable to report abuse, or fearful of what may happen if they do.

YOU can help put a stop to elder abuse.

Who are the Abusers?

The elder calls the abuser; son, daughter, sister, friend, brother, neighbor or a professional providing a service. There is no one type of abuser.

There is **no excuse** for elder abuse.

A home should be a place of comfort, not a source of punishment and fear.

Who are the victims of Elder Abuse?

Victims often live with family members and depend on them for daily care. Victims are, aged 60 or older. Victims in some cases are:

- **Dependent on the abuser for basic needs**
- **Living with a mental or physical disability**
- **Unable to protect themselves**



To report suspected abuse or neglect call this Free EPS Hotline: (833) 577-6532 or (225) 342-0144.

Reports can be filed by email: eps@la.gov | Medicaid Fraud Control Unit: (833) 920-1773

EPS website: <http://goea.louisiana.gov/eps>



Physical

Kicked, slapped, punched, pushing, use of non-medical restraints, sexual assault



Emotional

Denying companionship, isolation, confining the older person unfairly or against their will, verbal assaults or threats



Neglect

Failure to provide necessities for daily living to include, food, water, shelter, hygiene, and medical care



Housing

Forcing the older person out of their home or to live in unsanitary conditions, poor ventilation, without heat/AC



Financial

Stealing or mismanaging the older person's money, savings or credit cards, or forcing the older person to sign a will or turn over assets



Medical

Overmedicating/withholding meds from the older person, or withholding glasses, dentures, other needed aid or medical care

Why does Elder Abuse Happen?

There are many factors:

- **Resentment** for having to care for the older person while handling other personal responsibilities for children or work
- **Exhaustion** from too many responsibilities in addition to the older person
- **Retaliation** for real or imagined previous treatment by the older person
- The daily stresses of money, social problems, **personal life crises** being experienced by the caregiver
- The caregiver sees violence as an acceptable means of solving problems

How can you stop it?

REPORT IT. Reports to the Louisiana Elderly Protective Services (EPS) are anonymous and can be made by calling (833) 577-6532.

EDUCATE caregivers and older people about the home health aides, transportation, meal delivery, adult day care, counseling and personal care assistance available from community partners, signs and symptoms of abuse and their individual rights.

BE AWARE. Elder abuse is a problem. Older people deserve to be treated fairly like any other person.

It's everyone's responsibility to stop elder abuse!

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This public document is published at a unit cost of \$0.1193. 10,000 copies of this public document were published in this first printing at a total cost of \$1,193.00. The total cost of all printings of this document including reprints is \$1,193.00. This document was published by OTS- Production Support Services, 627 North 4th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802 for the Office of Elderly Affairs as an informational piece through federal grant funding from the Administration for Community Living. This material was printed in accordance with standards for printing by State Agencies established in R.S. 43.31. Printing of this material was purchased in accordance with the provisions of Title 43 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.