

The Top 10 Signs of Elder Abuse

And What You Should Do



**An informative report you must
read if you have an loved one
in a Nursing Home Facility**

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Each year hundreds of thousands of older persons are victims of nursing home abuse or are abused, neglected, and exploited by family members and others. Many victims are people who are older, frail, and vulnerable and cannot help themselves and depend on nursing home care to meet their most basic needs.

Legislatures in all 50 states have passed elder abuse prevention laws. Those laws and definitions of terms vary from one state to another, but all are designed to prevent nursing home and elder abuse.

Generally Accepted Definitions

- Elder abuse is an umbrella term referring to any knowing, intentional, or negligent act by a caregiver or any other person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable adult.
- Physical abuse is inflicting, or threatening to inflict, physical pain or injury on a vulnerable elder, or depriving them of a basic need.
- Sexual abuse is the infliction of non-consensual sexual contact of any kind.
- Emotional or psychological abuse is the infliction of mental or emotional anguish or distress on an elder person through verbal or nonverbal acts.
- Financial or material exploitation is the illegal taking, misuse, or concealment of funds, property, or assets of a vulnerable elder.
- Neglect is the refusal or failure by those responsible to provide food, shelter, health care, or protection for a vulnerable elder.
- Self-neglect is characterized as the behavior of an elderly person that threatens his/her own health or safety.
- Abandonment - The desertion of a vulnerable elder by anyone who has assumed the responsibility for care or custody of that person.

1. Injuries such as bruises, sprains, broken bones, scratches—any unexplained marks.
2. Signs of restraint, such as rope burns, gag marks, or welts.
3. Signs of neglect, such as bedsores, soiled clothes or bedding, malnutrition, dehydration, or unexplained weight loss.
4. Injuries to the genital area or breasts, such as bruises, bleeding, or infection.
5. Changes in behavior, such as depression, withdrawal, anxiety, agitation, failure to make eye contact, or trembling.
6. Frequent arguments between the caregiver and elder, or verbal harassment, belittling, or threats by the caregiver.
7. Changes in living arrangements, such as previously uninvolved relatives or new acquaintances moving in.
8. Caregiver intruding on elder's privacy, refusing to allow elder to visit with anyone alone, removing doors to rooms, reading elder's mail, obstructing religious practices.
9. Changes in financial situation, such as unusual banking activity, unpaid bills, or standard of living being inconsistent with means.
10. Elder expressing that he or she is being exploited or abused.

If you feel that a friend or member of your family has been a victim of elder abuse, it is your right to seek legal action.

Call

1-800-773-1955

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