Signs of Elder Abuse

Elder abuse is an intentional act or failure to act that causes or creates a risk of harm to an older adult. Common types of elder mistreatment include physical, sexual, emotional/psychological, or financial abuse, neglect, or self-neglect. Elder abuse impacts people of all ages, identities, and backgrounds.

What are the signs of mistreatment?

Physical Signs





Dehydration or unusual weight loss

Missing daily living aids (glasses, walker, or medication)



Unexplained injuries, bruises, cuts, or sores



underclothing

Unattended medical needs



Unexplained sexually transmitted diseases

Emotional & Behavioral Signs



Isolation from friends or family



Unusual changes in behavior or sleep



Withdrawal from normal activities

Financial Signs



Fraudulent signatures on financial documents



Unusual or sudden changes in spending patterns



Unpaid bills

Report known or suspected abuse as soon as possible:

Programs such as Adult Protective Services (APS) and the Long-Term Care Ombudsmen are here to help. For reporting numbers, contact Eldercare Locator at 1-800-677-1116 or visit www.eldercare.acl.gov. In cases of urgent danger, call 911 or the local police or sheriff.

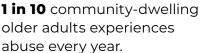


Don't stand by, stand up to elder abuse. You can make a difference.



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Did you know?

1 in 2 older adults with cognitive impairment experiences abuse.