

What is Elder Abuse?

Elder abuse is the infliction of physical, emotional, or psychological harm on an older adult. Elder abuse also can take form of financial exploitation or intentional or unintentional neglect of an older adult by the caregiver.

Are You Being Abused?

If you are being abused there is help out there for you. Just make the call and help is available to you, but you make the call. In case of emergencies call 911.



The Victim Services in the District Attorney's Office can inform you of your rights, assist you with any questions you may have or, refer you to the appropriate agency for help. Our office hours are from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm Monday thru Friday. Our services are confidential and free.

Important Phone Numbers:

National Center for Elder Abuse

202-898-2586

National Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-799-3224

Eldercare Locator

1-800-677-1116

The Victim Witness Services Program does not discriminate against individuals or group on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex or disability. If you believe you have been the target of discrimination, you have the right to file a civil rights complaint. Information on how to file a civil rights complaint can be found on the Office of Justice Programs website.

Warning Signs of Elder Abuse and Neglect

Victim Services



*Victim Services
Northern Judicial Circuit*

*Kristie Cross
Director*

Kcross@pacga.org

706-795-6322 (Office)

706-795-3588 (Fax)

P.O. Box 452

Danielsville, GA 30633



Warning Signs of Elder Abuse and Neglect

Just as there are many types of abuse, there are also numerous signs or symptoms that abuse may be taking place. The following signs do not always indicate an abusive situation, but can be important clues to possible abuse or neglect.

Symptoms of an Abused Older Person:

- *Unusual or unexpected injuries (cuts, bruises, burns, etc.)
- *Unkept appearance
- *Pressure or bed sores
- *Confinement against will (tied to furniture or locked in room)
- *Dehydration or malnutrition without a medical cause.
- *Withdrawal
- *Depression
- *Anxiety
- *Visits to many doctors or hospitals
- *Strange and inconsistent explanations for injuries
- *Helplessness
- *Hesitation to talk openly

Symptoms of an Abuser

- *Verbally assaulting, threatening, or insulting the older person.
- *Concerned only with the older person's financial situation and not his or her health or well-being.
- *Problems with alcohol or drug abuse.
- *Blaming the older person.
- *Not allowing the older person to speak for him or herself.
- *Attitude of anger toward the older person.
- *Socially isolating the older person from others.



How can we prevent elder abuse?

The first and most important step toward preventing wider abuse is to recognize that no one, of any age, should be subjected to violent, abusive, humiliating, or neglectful behavior.

Education is the cornerstone of preventing elder abuse. Because most abuse occurs in the home by family members or caregivers, there needs to be a concerted effort to educate the public about the special needs and problems of the elderly and the risk factors for abuse.

Social contact and support can be a boon to the elderly and to the family members and caregivers as well. Sometimes abusers will threaten to keep people away from the older person. Having someone care for the elderly, even for a few hours each week, is essential in reducing caregiver stress, which is a major contributing factor in elder abuse.

Are you being abused or neglected?

Tell someone, they can help.