

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.

Did you know?

1 in 10 community-dwelling older adults experiences abuse every year.

1 in 3 older adults with cognitive impairment experiences abuse.

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



Torn, stained, or bloody underclothing



Unattended medical needs



Unexplained sexually transmitted diseases

Emotional & Behavioral Signs



Increased fear or anxiety



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.**

NCEA
National Center on Elder Abuse

Keck School of
Medicine of **USC**

This document was completed for the National Center on Elder Abuse and is supported in part by a grant (90ABRC0002) from the Administration on Aging, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Grantees carrying out projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Therefore, points of view or opinions do not necessarily represent official Administration on Aging or HHS policy. LAST DOCUMENT REVISION: DEC 2023