Types of Abuse

Physical Abuse Someone, including caregiver, causes bodily harm by hitting, pushing, or slapping. This may also include restraining an older adult against his/her will such as locking them in a room or tying them to furniture.

Emotional Abuse Sometimes called psychological abuse, can include a caregiver saying hurtful words, yelling, threatening, or repeatedly ignoring the older adult. Keeping that person from seeing close friends and relatives is another form of emotional abuse.

Self- Neglect An individual neglects to attend to their basic needs, such as personal hygiene, appropriate clothing, feeding, or tending appropriately to any medical conditions they have. More generally, any lack of self-care in terms of personal health, hygiene and living conditions can be referred to as self-neglect.

Neglect Someone or caregiver does not try to respond to the older adults' needs. This may include physical, emotional, social needs, withholding food, medications, or access to health care.

Sexual Abuse Seniors forced to watch or be part of sexual acts.

Financial Exploitation Money or belongings are stolen from an older adult. It can include forging checks, taking someone retirement or Social Security benefits, or using a person's credit cards and bank accounts without their permission. It also includes changing names on a will, bank account, life insurance policy, or title to a house without permission.

Signs of Abuse

- Stops taking part in activities he or she enjoys
- Looks messy, with unwashed hair or dirty clothes
- Has trouble sleeping
- Loses weight for no reason
- Becomes withdrawn or acts agitated or violent
- Displays signs of trauma, like rocking back and forth
- Has unexplained bruises, burns, cuts, or scars; has broken eyeglasses/frames, or physical signs of punishment or being restrained

- Develops bed sores or other preventable conditions
- Lacks medical aids (glasses, walker, dentures, hearing aid, medications)
- Has an eviction notice or notice of late mortgage
- Has hazardous, unsafe, or unclean living conditions
- Displays signs of insufficient care or unpaid bills despite adequate financial resources

9% of the elder abuse involve physical abuse

(Adult Protective Services of Montgomery County)

14% of the elder abuse involve neglect

(Adult Protective Services of Montgomery County)

57% of the elder abuse involve self-neglect

(Adult Protective Services of Montgomery County)

0.6% of the elder abuse involve sexual abuse

(Dept. of Justice, National Center on Elder Abuse)

29% of the elder abuse involve financial exploitation

(Adult Protective Services of Montgomery County)

4.5% of the elder abuse involve emotional abuse

(Dept. of Justice, National Center on Elder Abuse)

What to do when someone abuses you?

It is not your fault when someone abuses you. Do not feel ashamed. Report the abuse to people you trust and who can help you, for instance, other family members, friends, neighbors, leaders or members at religious groups, etc.

Call 911 when you are in immediate danger. You can call the **Adult Protective Hotline** at **240-777-300** to report the abuse.

What to do when you suspect elder abuse?

If you think someone you know is being abused – physically, emotionally, or financially – talk with him or her when the two of you are alone. You could say you think something is wrong and you're worried. Offer to take him or her to get help, for instance, at the local adult protective services agency.

Adult Protective Services Agency
401 Hungerford Drive, 3rd floor
Rockville, MD 20850
or call **240-777-3000** to report the abuse

Always call 911 when you suspect someone is in immediate danger.

Resources for Elder Abuse

- **Call 911 if you think an elder person is in imminent danger**
- **In Montgomery County Maryland,**
  - Call the 24/7 Crisis Center Hotline at 240-777-4000
  - Adult Protective Services at 240-777-3000
  - ElderSafe Hotline at 301-816-5099
- **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Office for Older Americans**
  - 855-411-2372 (toll-free)
  - https://tinyurl.com/4smsyau5
- **National Elder Fraud Hotline**
  - 833-FRAUD-11 or 833-372-8311
  - https://tinyurl.com/2p988rvu

This content is from the NIH National Institute on Aging (NIA) https://tinyurl.com/NIAElder

SCAN ME

For more resources, please visit AAHI:
https://AAHIinfo.org/aahi-resources/

Elder Abuse

Asian American Health Initiative
Montgomery County DHHS
1401 Rockville Pike, 3rd Floor
Rockville, MD 20852
Phone: (240) 777-4517
Fax: (240) 777-4564
Email: AAHI@montgomerycountymd.gov
Website: www.AAHIinfo.org

Asian American Health Initiative
Together To Build A Healthy Community

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