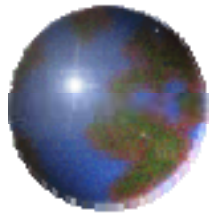


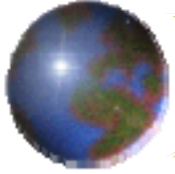


Elder Abuse



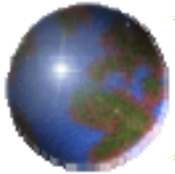
Together We Can Make This My
World.....Your World.....Our World,
Free of Elder Abuse !





What is Elder Abuse?

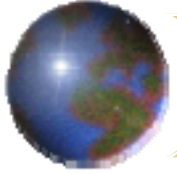
- Elder abuse is a term referring to any knowing, intentional, or negligent act by a caregiver, family member or any other person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to older people.



Types of Abuse

- Physical
- Neglect
- Abandonment
- Emotional
- Self Neglect
- Sexual
- Financial Exploitation
- Spiritual

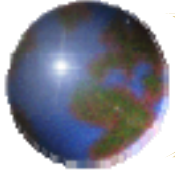




Physical Abuse

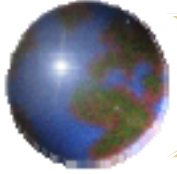
- The use of non-accidental physical force that may result in bodily injury, physical pain, or impairment.





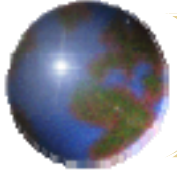
Physical Abuse-Examples

- striking (with or without an object)
- hitting
- beating
- pushing and shoving
- shaking
- slapping
- kicking
- pinching
- burning
- inappropriate use of drugs and physical restraints, force-feeding, and physical punishment of any kind also are examples of physical abuse.



Neglect

- The refusal or failure to fulfill any part of a person's obligations or duties to an older person.
- Failure of a person who has fiduciary responsibilities to provide care for an older person (e.g., pay for necessary home care services).
- The failure on the part of an in-home service provider to provide necessary care.



Neglect-Examples

Refusal or failure to provide an older person with:

- Food
- Water
- Clothing
- Shelter
- Personal hygiene
- Medicine,
- Personal safety
- Other essential needs, either implied or agreed



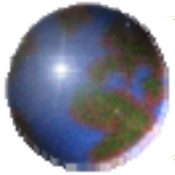
Abandonment

- The desertion of an older person by an individual who has assumed responsibility for providing care and support for an individual, or by a person who has guardianship and administration responsibilities for an older person.



Abandonment-Examples

- The desertion of an older person at a hospital, a nursing care facility, or other similar institution
- The desertion of an older person at a shopping center or other public location
- An older persons own report of being abandoned.



Emotional Abuse

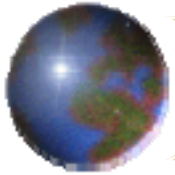
- The infliction of anguish, pain, or distress through verbal or nonverbal acts.





Emotional Abuse-Examples

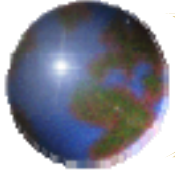
- Verbal assaults
- Insults
- Threats
- Intimidation
- Humiliation
- Harassment
- Treating an older person like an infant
- Isolating an older person from his/her family, friends, or regular activities
- Giving an older person the "silent treatment"
- Forced social isolation



Self Neglect

- The behavior of an older person that threatens his/her own health or safety.



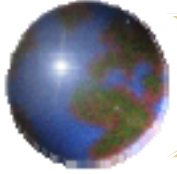


Self Neglect-Examples

Refusal or failure to provide himself/herself with:

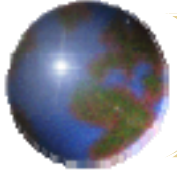
- Adequate food
- Water
- Clothing
- Shelter
- Personal hygiene
- Medication
- Safety precautions





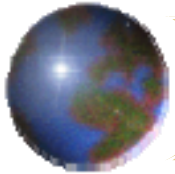
Sexual Abuse

- Non-consensual sexual contact of any kind with an elderly person
- Sexual contact with any person incapable of giving consent



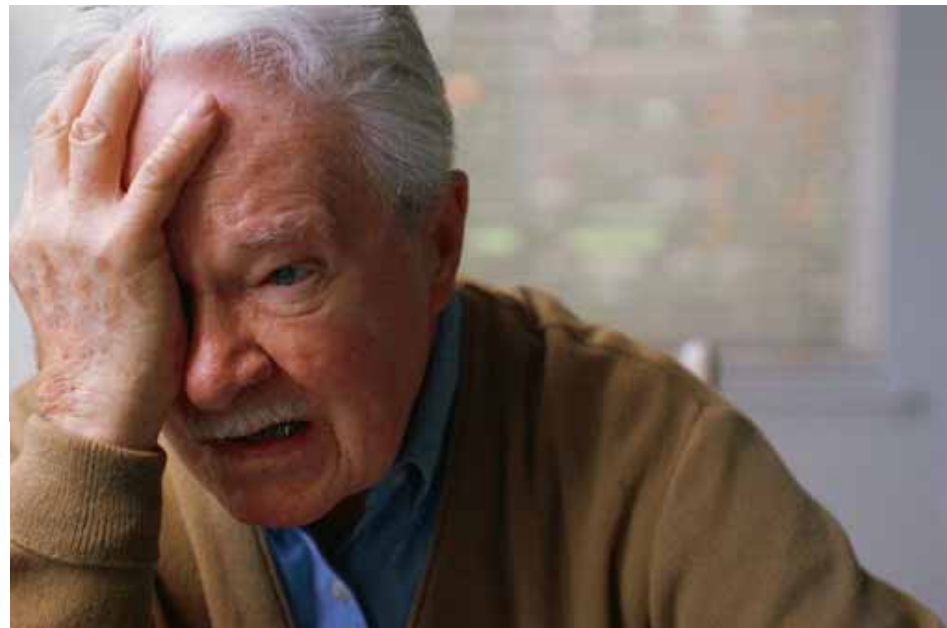
Sexual Abuse-Examples

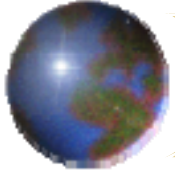
- Unwanted touching
- All types of sexual assault or battery, such as rape, sodomy, coerced nudity, and sexually explicit photographing
- Forcing individual to watch sex acts
- Showing an elderly person pornography
- Forcing the elder to undress



Financial Exploitation

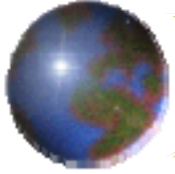
- Illegal or improper use of an older persons finances, property or assets





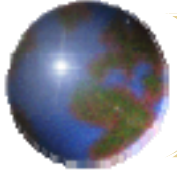
Financial Exploitation-Examples

- Cashing an older person's cheques without authorization or permission
- Forging an older person's signature
- Misusing or stealing an older person's money or possessions
- Coercing or deceiving an older person into signing any document (e.g., contracts or will)
- Improper use of conservatorship, guardianship, or power of attorney.



Spiritual Abuse

- When a person in religious authority or with a unique spiritual practice misleads and maltreats another person in the name of God or church or in the mystery of any spiritual concept.
- Spiritual abuse often refers to an abuser using spiritual or religious rank in taking advantage of the victim's spirituality (mentality and passion on spiritual matters) by putting the victim in a state of unquestioning obedience to an abusive authority.



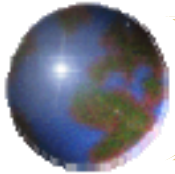
Spiritual Abuse-Examples

- Unreasonable control of a person's basic right to make a choice on spiritual matters
- Prevention from practicing faith
- Isolation or separation from family and friends due to religious affiliation
- Physical abuse that includes physical injury, deprivation of sustenance, and sexual abuse



Who Commits Elder Abuse?

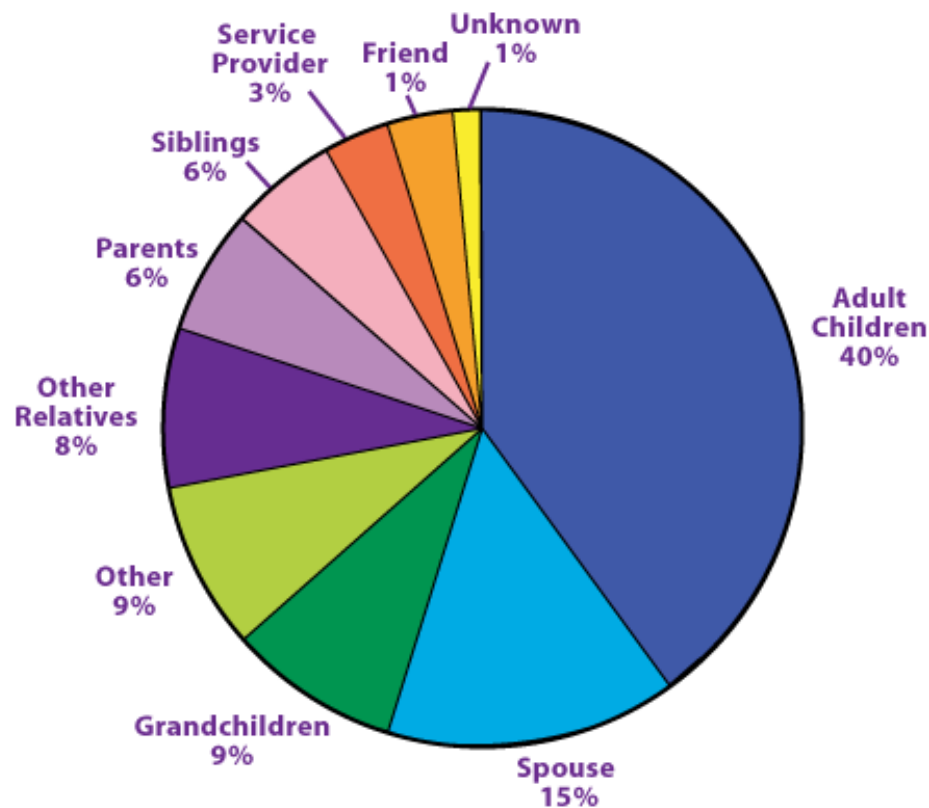
- Both men and women
- Adult children and family members (the abusers come from this group more often than from any other group)
- Caregivers
- Strangers
- Spouses



Who commits Elder Abuse?

Less than 10% of abusers are unknown to their victims.

Breakdown of Confirmed Perpetrators

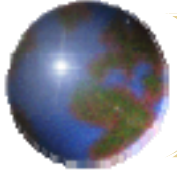


**National Association of Adult Protective Services Administrators
National Center on Elder Abuse**



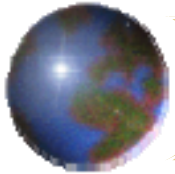
Why are older people more vulnerable to abuse?

- Dementia
- Social Isolation
- Mental Impairment
- Caregiver Stress
- Cannot fend for themselves emotionally or physically
- Dependent on their care provider



Warning signs of elder abuse

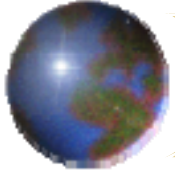
- Bruises, pressure marks, broken bones, abrasions, and burns may be an indication of physical abuse, neglect, or mistreatment.
- Unexplained withdrawal from normal activities, a sudden change in alertness, and unusual depression may be indicators of emotional abuse.
- Bruises around the breasts or genital area can occur from sexual abuse.
- Sudden changes in financial situations may be the result of exploitation.



Warning signs of elder abuse

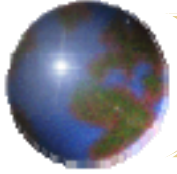
- Bedsores, unattended medical needs, poor hygiene, and unusual weight loss are indicators of possible neglect.
- Behavior such as belittling, threats, and other uses of power and control by spouses are indicators of verbal or emotional abuse.
- Strained or tense relationships, frequent arguments between the caregiver and older person are also signs.

If you notice changes in personality or behavior, you should start to question what is going on.



How can we prevent elder abuse?

- Educating older people, professionals, caregivers, and the public on elder abuse is critical to prevention.
- Call and visit older loved ones
- Catch stress early on
- Provide respite to those providing care
- Report any suspicions you may have



Reporting Abuse

- Call 911 if the person is in immediate danger
- Report concerns to appropriate government authorities
- Raise concerns through established complaints and reporting mechanisms
- Call police if necessary



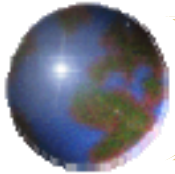
Do your part to raise awareness!

- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
Annually held on June 15th



Ideas for raising awareness

- Host a Workshop or Conference
- Submit an article/letter to the editor
- Hold a poster contest
- Host an event in the schools
- Radio/TV Public Service Announcements
- Wear something purple



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