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

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