# 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.

### What are the signs of mistreatment?

**Did you know?**

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

**1 in 3** older adults with cognitive impairment experiences abuse.

## 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