

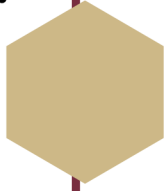


STOP ELDER ABUSE TODAY

Claude Pepper Elder Law Clinic
850-644-9928

WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?

- Elder abuse refers to any knowing, intentional, or negligent act causing harm or a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable adult.
- Abuse, neglect, exploitation, or fraud can happen anywhere, anytime, and often affects the most vulnerable members of our community.
- The Department of Elder Affairs works with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Adult Protective Services and the Aging Network to protect disabled adults or elderly persons from further occurrences of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.



ABUSE

Abuse is a willful action by a caretaker that results in injury or harm.

Signs of Abuse:

- Physical injuries, bruises, scratches, or abrasions
- Withdrawal from social activities
- Over- or under-medicated

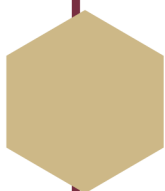


NEGLECT

Neglect is an error by a caretaker which is a serious disregard of responsibility.

Signs of Neglect:

- Dirty or unkempt appearance
- Lack of access to appropriate nutrition
- Missing or broken eyeglasses, dentures, or hearing aids



EXPLOITATION

Exploitation is the act of taking unfair advantage of a person by a caretaker.

Signs of Exploitation:

- Unusual or unauthorized credit card use
- Missing personal property
- Unmet needs, or unpaid expenses, despite seemingly adequate income and assets

**CALL 1-800-96-ABUSE
TO REPORT ELDER
ABUSE IN FLORIDA**



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What kind of information do I need to have when I call?

- Specific descriptions of the incident or the circumstances contributing to the risk of harm:
 - When, where, and what occurred
 - Why it happened
 - The extent of any injuries sustained
- Name, approximate age, race, and gender of all adults and children involved
- Addresses or another means to locate the subjects of the report
- Information regarding disabilities and/or limitations of the victims
- Relationship of the alleged perpetrator to the adult victim(s)

What happens when I call the hotline?

- You will be connected with a Hotline counselor and asked about:
 - Demographic information of the people involved
 - A means to locate the subjects of the report
 - Specifics of the incident being reported
- Hotline counselors accept reports on the basis of specific criteria from Chapter 39 and 415 of the Florida Statutes.
- Each call acceptance decision is based only on information provided during the call.
- All reports are kept confidential and can be made anonymously.

What happens after the Hotline accepts a report from the information I provided?

- The Hotline counselor sends a typed report of the allegations to the local investigation County office where the victim is located.
- After the report is sent to the local office the report is assigned to an Adult Protective Investigator (API).
- The API is responsible for conducting an investigation on the allegations that meet statutory criteria for the Department of Children and Families to investigate.

Will I be contacted by anyone after I make a report?

- As a reporter, you may or may not be contacted by the protective investigator handling the case.
- If you have not been contacted and wish to speak to the investigator handling the case you reported, then you should contact the local protective investigations office.

**CALL 1-800-96-ABUSE / 1-800-962-2873
TO REPORT ELDER ABUSE IN FLORIDA**