

Elder Abuse

Claude Pepper Elder Law Clinic

WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?

ELDER ABUSE CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE

Elder abuse refers to any knowing, intentional, or negligent act causing harm or a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable adult.

Elder abuse can come from **family members, friends, caregivers, or even strangers** who contact older adults through phone, email, mail, social media, or the internet. Unfortunately, elder abuse can be common and is very underreported.



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 medicating an older adult



NEGLECT

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

Signs of neglect:

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



EXPLOITATION

Exploitation is the act of taking advantage of an individual.

Signs of exploitation:

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



Reporting Elder Abuse

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WHAT INFORMATION SHOULD I HAVE WHEN I MAKE THE CALL?

- **Elder's Details:** Name, age, and location.
- **Incident Description:** Key details about the abuse (what, when, where).
- **Involved Parties:** Names of abuser(s) or witnesses, if known.
- **Safety Concerns:** Urgent medical or safety needs.
- **Your Contact Info:** Optional, but helpful for investigations.

YOU CAN REMAIN ANONYMOUS

What happens when I call the hotline ?

You will be contacted by 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

What happens AFTER I call ?

1. The Hotline counselor sends the report of allegations to the local investigation office in the county where the victim is located.
2. The report is then assigned to a Child Protective Investigator (CPI).
3. The CPI is responsible for investigating allegations that meet statutory criteria for the Department of Children and Families.



Florida Abuse Hotline at 1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873)

Press 2 to report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation of a vulnerable adult

