

Elder Abuse: You Can Break the Silence

What is Elder Abuse and Neglect?

Mistreatment of elders can include physical, sexual, and emotional abuse; neglect; or financial exploitation by family members or others with whom the elder has an ongoing personal relationship. Most cases of elder abuse go undetected.

Ask for help if your caregiver or a family member or someone else...

- is hurting you or threatening to hurt you
- won't let you see friends, family, or your doctor
- is not providing food or medications
- is taking your money or things you value
- is signing your name without permission
- is asking you to sign papers you don't understand

Protective Services can:

- help you find ways to protect yourself
- help keep you safe at home
- find somewhere safe for you to live, if you choose
- counsel family members, if that is what you want
- meet with you confidentially at your home or another place you choose

What you can do if you or someone you know is being harmed

If you are a victim of abuse, you may feel embarrassed and ashamed, lonely and afraid, and that no one will believe you. Remember that everyone deserves dignity, respect, and a safe place to live. That includes you.

- Tell a trusted family member, friend, or religious advisor.
- Tell your doctor, nurse, or social worker.

Call the Elder Abuse Hotline at (800) 922-2275.

Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. All calls are free and confidential.

