



ALL ABOUT ELDER ABUSE?

There is fairly widespread agreement that abuse of older adults includes:

- Abuse of older adults living either alone or with family members or others in private residences (including older adults receiving home care or community care or in institutions,)
- Self neglect by older adults

Abuse of older adults is sometimes described as a misuse of power and a violation of trust.

Abusers may use different tactics to exert power and control over their victims. Abuse may happen once or in a repeated and escalating pattern over months or years. The abuse may take many different forms, which may change over time.

Psychological abuse includes attempts to dehumanize or intimidate older adults.

This type of abuse may include:

- Threatening to use violence or to abandon them
- Making them fear that they will not receive the food or care they need
- Lying to them

- Ignoring or excessively criticizing them
- Insulting, swearing, or name calling or making derogative or slanderous statements about them to others
- Socially isolating them, or failing to let them have visitors
- Withholding important information that they have a right to know

Financial abuse encompasses financial manipulation or exploitation including theft, fraud, forgery, or extortion. This type of abuse may include:

- Stealing their money, pension cheques or other possessions
- Selling their homes or other property without their permission
- Wrongfully using a Power of Attorney
- Not allowing them to move into long-term care facilities in order to preserve access to their pension income
- Failing to pay back borrowed money when asked
- Opening mail without permission

Physical abuse includes any act of violence – whether or not it results in physical injury. This type of abuse may include:

- Beating, burning or scalding, pushing or shoving, slapping or Spitting.
- Tying them to furniture
- Using or misusing physical restraints
- Forcing them to remain in beds or chairs or in rooms (including locking them in).
- Excessively restraining them through the use of alcohol, tranquilizers or other medication
- Withholding medication

Older adults who become frail and require medical or other health-related services may experience abuse and therefore may be failing to facilitate their access to medical or health services

Sexual abuse includes behaving in a sexual way toward older adults without their full knowledge and consent.

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