



PREVENTING ELDER ABUSE 101

AKA the Purple Packet

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SeniorResourceConnectMI.org



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WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?

“Elder abuse happens when someone hurts, ignores, or takes advantage of an older adult.”

- MI Department of Attorney General

“An intentional act or failure to act that causes or creates a risk of harm to an older adult.”

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

“Abuse’ means harm or threatened harm to an adult's health or welfare caused by another person. Abuse includes, but is not limited to, nonaccidental physical or mental injury, sexual abuse, or maltreatment.”

- Michigan legislature

What comes to mind when you think about elder abuse?

TYPES OF ELDER ABUSE



Physical Abuse

- The use of physical force, resulting in injuries, pain, or impairment.
- Signs include:
 - Bruises
 - Broken bones
 - Untreated injuries
 - Bleeding
 - Broken eyeglasses



Sexual Abuse

- Non-consensual sexual contact of any kind with an older adult.
- Signs include:
 - Bruising or bleeding around genital area
 - Unexplained sexually transmitted infections
 - Torn or stained undergarments



Emotional Abuse

- Inflicting pain or distress through verbal or nonverbal acts, such as threats, insults, intimidation, and harassment.
- Signs include:
 - Older adult becoming upset and/or withdrawn
 - Older adults reporting feeling threatened, insulted, and/or intimidated



Confinement

- Restraining or isolating an older adult.
- Signs include:
 - A caregiver always having excuses for why an older adults in their care cannot see family or friends



Passive Neglect

- Failure to provide an older adult with necessities such as food, water, clothing, shelter, medicine, and other essentials.
- Signs include:
 - Dehydration
 - Unsafe or unsanitary living conditions (e.g., no heat or running water, bedbugs, etc.)

TYPES OF ELDER ABUSE



Willful Deprivation

- Purposefully denying an older adult such as medication, shelter, food, shelter, etc.
- Signs include:
 - An older adult reporting they're left home alone while their caregiver goes to work
 - An older adult not having access to medical equipment they need to improve their quality of life (e.g., a walker, eyeglasses, etc.)



Financial Exploitation

- Illegally using an older adult's money, property, or assets (e.g., cashing a senior's checks, forging their signature, etc.).
- Signs include:
 - Sudden changes in an older adult's bank account
 - New person listed on an older adult's bank account
 - Unusual or large withdrawals
 - Sudden changes to an older adult's will or other important documents



Self Neglect

- An older adult not acting in the best interests for their health and/or safety.
- Signs include:
 - Dehydration
 - Malnutrition
 - Poor hygiene
 - Unsafe or unsanitary living conditions
 - Clothing inappropriate for the weather
 - Lack of needed medical devices (e.g., walker or eyeglasses)

Note: An older adults may experience multiple types of elder abuse at the same time.

REPORT SUSPECTED ELDER ABUSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

If you suspect elder abuse call Adult Protective Services at (855) 444-3911.

If the older adult is in immediate danger, call 911.

SCAM PREVENTION

Scams are probably the most well-known type of financial abuse. Scams and scammers have certain warning signs. Knowing the signs and having tools to work around them can help stop scammers in their tracks.

Common Scam Warning Signs

- Pretending to be a person you know (e.g., your grandchild or a customer service representative at a business you may use).
- Claiming that there's a problem that needs to be fixed.
- Needing you to act ASAP.
- Asking for specific forms of payment (e.g., giftcards, Bitcoin, wiring money, etc.).

Prevention Tips

- Have a password with your loved ones. If you're not sure whether a caller is your loved one or a scammer, ask them for the password.
- If you're unsure whether an organization (e.g., your bank) actually sent the email/call/text, call them directly.
- Know that certain agencies (e.g., Medicare) will NEVER email or call you to ask for your contact information.
- Take a deep breath. Remove yourself from the situation and call the agency that is supposedly contacting you directly.
- Know that scammer usually ask for certain payment types- including wire transfer, cryptocurrency (e.g., Bitcoin), gift cards, or using a specific payment app.

Resources

- MI Attorney General: michigan.gov/consumerprotection
- Federal Trade Commission: consumer.ftc.gov/
- AARP Fraud Watch Helpline: 877-908-3360
- AARP Scam-Tracking Map: aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/tracking-map

REPORTING ABUSE TO APS

When should you report?

- If you suspect that a vulnerable older adult is experiencing abuse or neglect or has been exploited financially.
- You do not have to view the abuse first-hand to make a report!
- If you suspect that there's elder abuse, it's better to call and report than to leave an older adult vulnerable to abuse. There are no legal consequences for reporting something that turned out to not be elder abuse (you can also report anonymously!).

How do you make the report?

1. Call APS at 1-855-444-3911
2. You can call anonymously if you like, but you won't receive updates on the case.
3. Share the information that you have; the APS worker has to go through their entire questionnaire regardless of how much information you have. It's ok to say if you don't have the information they're asking for.!
4. If you share your name and address you should get a letter stating whether or not there was enough information to open a case.

What information do you need to make the report?

- Basic Information Needed:
 - Older adult's name
 - Older adult's address
 - Brief description of the abuse
- Bonus Information:
 - Older adult's age
 - Older adult's birthday/Social Security Number
 - Family members' contact information
 - Name of anyone else living in the home
 - Name of alleged abuser(s)

NO EXCUSE
FOR Elder Abuse

1-855-444-3911

LOCAL REPORTING NUMBERS

Adult Protective Services (APS)

1-855-444-3911

Long-Term Care Ombudsman (if abuse is happening in a nursing home)

(586) 980-9303

National Domestic Violence Helpline

(800) 799-7233

Washtenaw County Sheriff (Non-emergency dispatch)

(734) 994-2911

Local Police

Ann Arbor (734) 994-2911

Saline (734) 429-7911, Ext. 2190

Chelsea (734) 475-1771, Option 3

Scio Township (734) 994-8098

Dexter (734) 426-0228

Superior Township (734) 481-2521

Lodi Township/Manchester (734) 428-8829

Webster Township (734) 994-8098

Milan (734) 439-1551

York Township (734) 439-0777

Northfield Township (734) 449-9911, Ext. 102

Ypsilanti (734) 483-9510

Pittsfield Township (734) 822-4911

Ypsilanti Township (734) 484-6740

Salem Township (734) 481-2521

REPORT SUSPECTED ELDER ABUSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

If you suspect elder abuse call Adult Protective Services at (855) 444-3911.

If the older adult is in immediate danger, call 911.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT

Caregivers give their all to their loved one(s), and also need support!

Adult Day Programs-

These are structured community-based programs that provide daytime supervision, social interaction, and enriching activities for older adults (usually with memory changes).

- Dottie Crim Adult Day and Education Center (Saline) (734) 429-1155
- Ease The Day (Chelsea) (734) 475-9242
- Huron Valley PACE (734) 572-5777
- Silver Club Memory Programs (734) 998-9352

General Support

- AgeWays Senior Services (formerly Area Agency on Aging 1b) (248) 357-2255
- JFS CARES (734) 769-0209
- VA Ann Arbor Caregiver Support Line (855) 260-3274
- Washtenaw Support Network for Caregivers (734) 998-9352

Kinship Care

This is when someone other than a parent has a child living with them in their care.

- CCWC Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (734) 971-9781, Ext. 511
- MSU Kinship Care Resource Center 1-800-535-1218

Respite Care

This is temporary relief for primary caregivers. Some respite programs are overnight, while others are time-limited.

- CCWC Volunteer Caregiver Respite (734) 971-9781, Ext. 511
- MSU Kinship Care Resource Center 1-800-535-1218

Support Groups

- Alzheimer's Association (Great Lakes Chapter) (800) 272-3900
- Catching Your Breath (caring with a loved one living with dementia) (734) 936-8803

Training & Education

- Powerful Tools for Caregivers (AgeWays) (248) 357-2255

This is not a complete list. Visit SeniorResourceConnectMI.org to view our online resource directory, or call (734) 971-9781, Ext. 7 to speak with a Resource Advocate.



Know the signs of different forms of elder abuse.



Connect with loved ones so they aren't isolated.



Volunteer at senior centers or senior living facilities.



Talk to friends, family members, and coworkers about ways to prevent elder abuse.



Report suspected abuse as soon as possible.



Five Ways We Can **ALL** Prevent Elder Abuse

As members of the community, it's up to all of us to make sure that the most vulnerable people are protected. There are simple steps anyone can take to prevent elder abuse.

We all have a role to play in building a more aging-friendly community.

1 IN
6

OLDER ADULTS EXPERIENCES ABUSE

1 IN
24

CASES OF ELDER ABUSE IS REPORTED

ELDER ABUSE HAPPENS IN

EVERY
COMMUNITY



Scan to view our elder abuse prevention videos



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SeniorResourceConnectMI.org



**CATHOLIC
CHARITIES**
WASHTENAW COUNTY

Love In Action

SENIOR SERVICES

We're lucky to live in Washtenaw County where there are numerous resources, but we may not always know how to find these resources or get connected to them.

Catholic Charities Washtenaw County has been supporting older adults safely age in place and connect with resources for over 30 years.

Senior Services Programs



Case Management

Connects older adults to resources, coordinates care, and creates goals with weekly check ins.



Home Maintenance & Safety Services

Provides a variety of basic maintenance services so seniors can safely live at home.



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Provides resources, information about self-care, children's needs, and support groups.



Person-Centered Options Counseling

Meet with a certified, unbiased person-centered options counselor to explore your long-term care needs.



Resource Advocacy

Provides information and referrals to community programs. Can also help with Medicare navigation.



Senior Resource Connect

Publishes an annual Senior Resource Directory. Also provides an online resource directory, weekly blog, and focuses on elder abuse awareness and prevention.



Volunteer Caregiver Respite

Matches trained volunteers with families caring full-time for a home-bound adult age 60 or older. Volunteers to provide companionship and socialization.

For more information, call (734) 971-9781, ext. 7