



Abuse hurts at any age...

Bluegrass Elder Abuse Prevention Council

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Understanding Elder Abuse

Understanding Elder Abuse Aging Statistics

The older population--persons 65 years or older--numbered 39.6 million in 2009 (the latest year for which data is available).

They represented 12.9% of the U.S. population, about one in every eight Americans.

People 65+ represented 12.4% of the population in the year 2000 but are expected to grow to be 19% of the population by 2030.

Administration on Aging - www.aoa.gov

By 2050 one quarter of the U.S. population will be 65 and older based on a projected total population of 438 million people.

Pew Research Foundation – www.pewsocialtrends.org

Understanding Elder Abuse **Who Reports?**

Kentucky Revised Statute: 209

ANY person, including but not limited to, **physician, law enforcement officer, nurse, social worker, cabinet personnel, coroner, medical examiner, alternate care facility employee, or caretaker**, having reasonable cause to suspect that an adult has suffered abuse, neglect, or exploitation, shall report or cause a report to be made in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. Death of the adult does not relieve one of the responsibility for reporting the circumstances surrounding the death.

An oral or written report shall be made immediately to the cabinet upon knowledge of suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of an adult.

Understanding Elder Abuse **Someone Tells You**

Whenever an elder reports that he or she has been mistreated, even if the elder has some degree of cognitive impairment or a mental health issue, these concerns should be treated seriously.

Karen Stein, Ph.D. University of Delaware

Understanding Elder Abuse Caregiver Neglect

The deprivation of services by a caretaker which are necessary to maintain the health and welfare of an adult

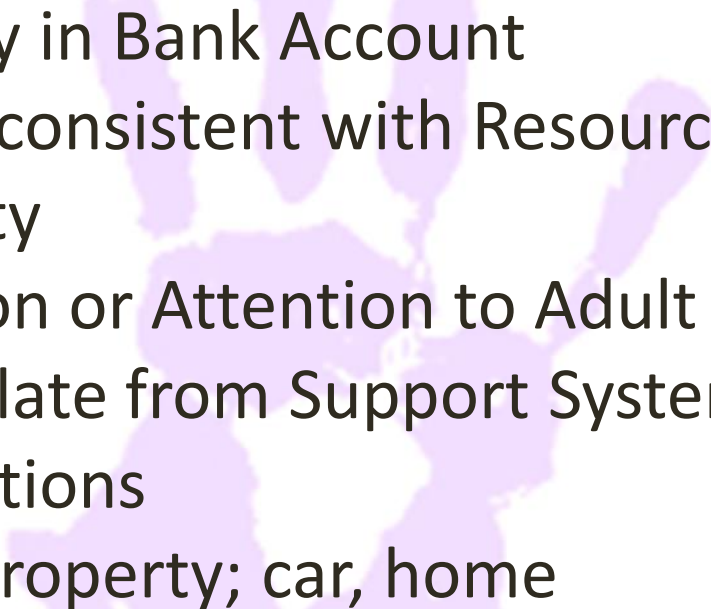
- Sunken area under eyes and around cheekbones
- Left alone or locked up for extended periods of time
- Lack of necessary aids, cane, walker, glasses, dentures
- Lack of food or water
- Soiled clothing
- Soiled bedding
- Poor hygiene
- Urine odors
- Dry skin
- Weight loss
- Inappropriate food
- Prescriptions not filled

Exploitation

Obtaining or using another person's resources, including but not limited to funds, assets, or property, by deception, intimidation, or similar means, with the intent to deprive the person of those resources

A study of media reports from April to June 2010 estimated that financial exploitation cost older adults at least \$2.9 billion in 2010.

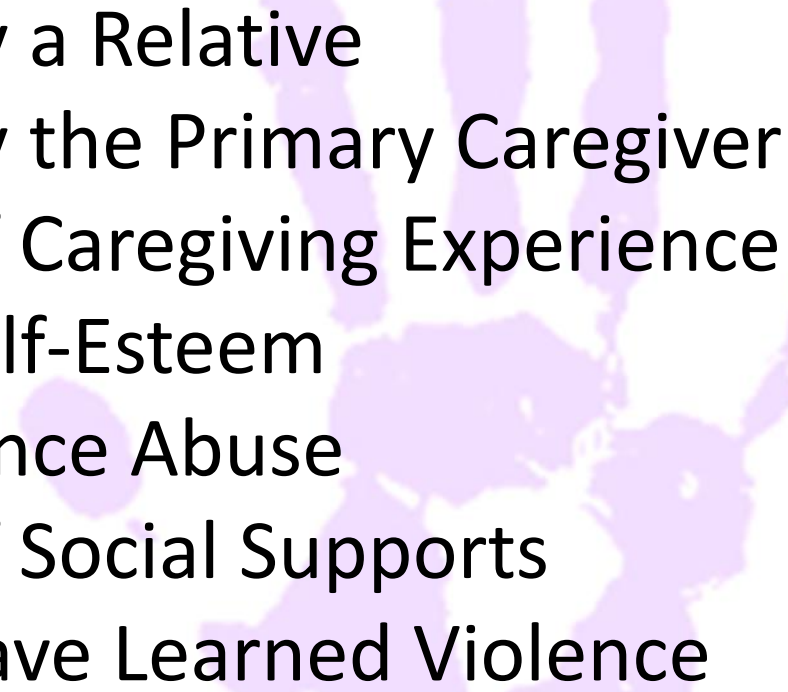
Exploitation

- Unusual Activity in Bank Account
 - Level of Care Inconsistent with Resources
 - Missing Property
 - Sudden Affection or Attention to Adult
 - Attempts to Isolate from Support System
 - Missing medications
 - Use of adult's property; car, home
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Understanding Physical Abuse

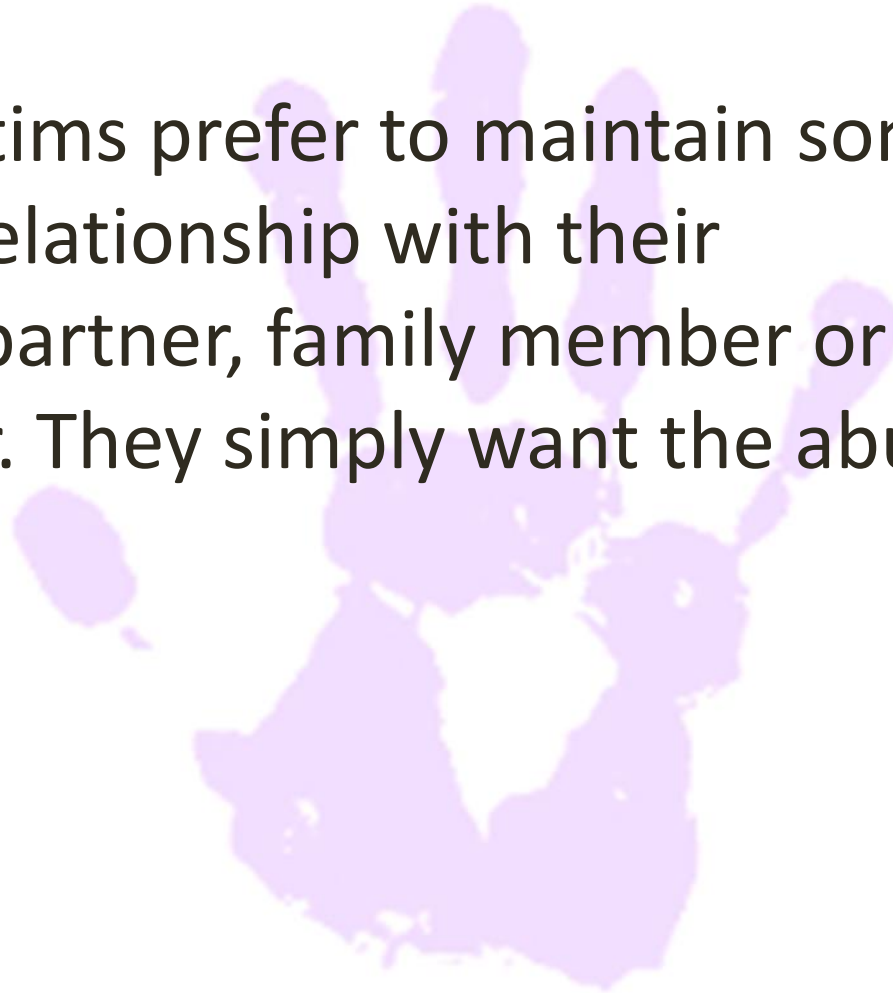
- The infliction of injury, sexual abuse,
 - Unreasonable confinement, intimidation,
 - Or punishment that results in physical pain
 - Or injury, including mental injury
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- Scratches
 - Handprints and fingerprints on skin
 - Cigarette Burns
 - Strangulation Marks
 - Skin Tears
 - Pain on Touching
 - Scalp Injuries
 - Bruises or Welts on Skin
 - Detached Retina
 - Fractures
 - Dislocations
 - Untreated Wounds
 - Poisoning
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Understanding Elder Abuse Perpetrators

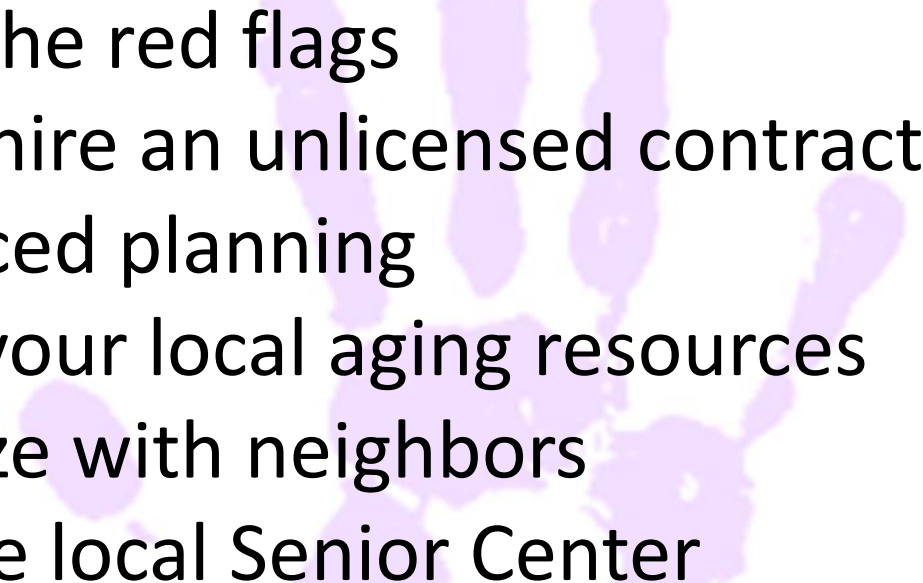
- Usually a Relative
 - Usually the Primary Caregiver
 - Lack of Caregiving Experience
 - Low Self-Esteem
 - Substance Abuse
 - Lack of Social Supports
 - May have Learned Violence
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Understanding Elder Abuse Relationships

Most victims prefer to maintain some type of relationship with their spouse, partner, family member or caregiver. They simply want the abuse to end.



Understanding Elder Abuse Empowerment

- Know the red flags
 - Never hire an unlicensed contractor
 - Advanced planning
 - Know your local aging resources
 - Socialize with neighbors
 - Join the local Senior Center
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Elder abuse is a crime.

I pledge to know the signs
and report my suspicions
promptly.



How to Report

Kentucky Elder Abuse Hotline

1.800.752.6200

Long-Term Care Ombudsman

1.877.787.0077

Emergency

911

Report Online

<https://prd.chfs.ky.gov/ReportAbuse/Home.aspx>