



Red Flags of Elder Abuse



→ Neglect

- Lack of basic hygiene, adequate food, or clean and appropriate clothing
- Lack of medical aids (glasses, walker, dentures, hearing aid, medications)
- Person with dementia left unsupervised
- Person confined to bed is left without care
- Home cluttered, filthy, in disrepair, or having fire and safety hazards
- Home without adequate facilities (stove, refrigerator, heat, cooling, working plumbing, and electricity)
- Untreated pressure “bed” sores (pressure ulcers)



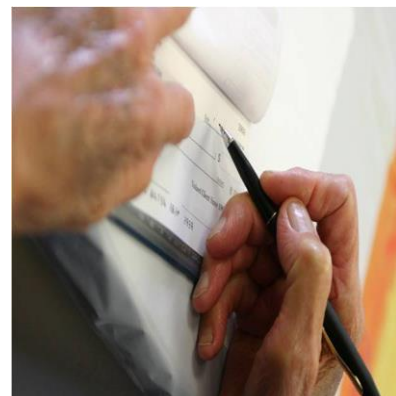
→ Financial Abuse/Exploitation

- Lack of amenities victim could afford
- Vulnerable elder/adult “voluntarily” giving uncharacteristically excessive financial reimbursement/gifts for needed care and companionship
- Caregiver has control of elder’s money but is failing to provide for elder’s needs
- Vulnerable elder/adult has signed property transfers (Power of Attorney, new will, etc.) but is unable to comprehend the transaction or what it means



→ Psychological/Emotional Abuse

- Unexplained or uncharacteristic changes in behavior, such as withdrawal from normal activities or unexplained changes in alertness
- Caregiver isolates elder (doesn’t let anyone into the home or speak to the elder)
- Caregiver is verbally aggressive or demeaning, controlling, overly concerned about spending money or uncaring



→ Physical/Sexual Abuse

- Inadequately explained fractures, bruises, welts, cuts, sores, or burns
- Unexplained sexually transmitted diseases

If you or someone you know is in a life threatening situation or immediate danger, call 911 or 1-800-752-6200.

Do you want to make a difference? For information about the Bluegrass Elder Abuse Prevention Council, email us at BluegrassEAPC@gmail.com.

WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?

In general, elder abuse refers to intentional or neglectful acts by a caregiver or “trusted” individual that lead to, or may lead to, harm of a vulnerable elder.

Physical abuse; neglect; emotional or psychological abuse; financial exploitation; sexual abuse; and abandonment are considered forms of elder abuse.

In many states, self neglect is also considered mistreatment.

WHO IS AT RISK?

Elder abuse can occur anywhere – in the home, in nursing homes, or other institutions. It affects seniors across all socioeconomic groups, cultures, and races.

Based on available information, women and “older” elders are more likely to be victimized.

Dementia is a significant risk factor. Substance abuse and mental health issues - of both the victim and abuser – are risk factors. Isolation can also contribute to risk.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SUSPECT ABUSE?

It's the law to report abuse.

Most cases of elder abuse go undetected. Do not assume that someone has already reported a suspicious situation. The agency receiving the report will ask what you observed, who was involved, and who they can contact to learn more.

You do not need to prove that abuse is occurring; it is up to the professionals to investigate the reported suspicions.

To report suspected abuse in your community, contact your local Adult Protective Services agency. To reach the Kentucky APS Abuse Hotline, **call 1-800-752-6200** or 1-877-597-2331.

To report suspected abuse in a nursing home or long-term care facility, contact your local Long-term Care Ombudsman at **1-800-372-2991**.



The Bluegrass Elder Abuse Prevention Council aids in the prevention of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation through community education, and inter-agency collaboration.

The Bluegrass Elder Abuse Prevention Council meets on the third Thursday of each month at 3:00pm. Meetings are held in the conference room of the Bluegrass Area Development District (BGADD) on 699 Perimeter Drive, Lexington, KY 40517.

This information was provided by the National Center on Elder Abuse and the Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse and Neglect.