

What are the warning signs of Elder Abuse?

While one sign does not necessarily indicate abuse, some telltale signs that there could be a problem are:

- Bruises, pressure marks, broken bones, abrasions, and burns may be an indication of physical abuse, neglect, or mistreatment.
- Unexplained withdrawal from normal activities, a sudden change in alertness, and unusual depression may be indicators of emotional abuse.
- Bruises around the breasts or genital area can occur from sexual abuse.
- Sudden changes in financial situations may be the result of exploitation.
- Bedsores, unattended medical needs, poor hygiene, and unusual weight loss are indicators of possible neglect.
- Behavior such as belittling, threats, and other uses of power and control by spouses are indicators of verbal or emotional abuse.
- Strained or tense relationships, frequent arguments between the caregiver and elderly person are also signs.

Most important is to be alert. The suffering is often in silence. If you notice changes in personality or behavior, you should start to question what is going on.

Source: <http://www.ncea.aoa.gov>



Contact Numbers

Law Enforcement Contacts (Non-Emergency)

Clatsop County Sheriff	(503) 325-2061
Astoria	(503) 325-4411
Seaside	(503) 738-6311
Warrenton	(503) 861-2235
Cannon Beach	(503) 436-2949
The Harbor 24 hour crisis line	(503) 325-3426 (503) 325-5735
Senior & Disability Services APS (Adult Protective Services)	(503) 738-5191 (800) 846-9165
Clatsop County Developmentally Disabled Program	(503) 325-1588
After Hours/Weekends	(866) 866-1426
Clatsop Behavioral Health Care (CBH) 24-Hour	(503) 325-5722 (503) 325-5724
Victim's Assistance Program	(503) 325-1599

Websites

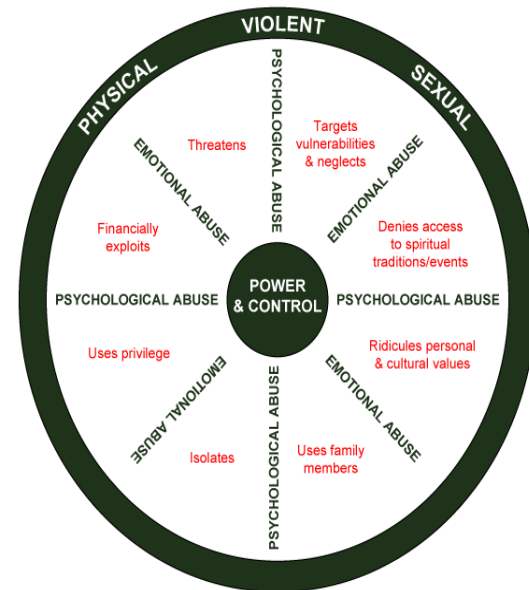
Oregon Adult Protective Services
[Http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/spwpd/abuse/aps.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/spwpd/abuse/aps.shtml)

Oregon Division of Seniors and People with Disabilities
[Http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/aboutdhs/structure/spd.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/aboutdhs/structure/spd.shtml)

Oregon Long Term Care Ombudsman
[Http://www.oregon.gov/LTCO/index.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/LTCO/index.shtml)

Oregon Department of Justice
[Http://www.doj.state.or.us/](http://www.doj.state.or.us/)

Elder Abuse Information Guide



What is Elder abuse?

Elder abused is a term referring to any knowing, intentional, or negligent act by a caregiver or any other person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable adult. This can include, but is not limited to, physical, emotional, and/or sexual abuse, exploitation, neglect, and or abandonment.

*Collaborative Project of the Domestic Violence Council, Local Law Enforcement, and The Harbor.

Who are the abusers of older people?

- The bottom line is that elder abuse is a family issue. Family members are more often abusers than any other group including adult children, grandchildren, and care givers.

What is Elder Abuse?

- **Physical Abuse:** Inflicting, or threatening to inflict, physical pain or injury on a vulnerable elder, or depriving them of a basic need.
- **Emotional Abuse:** Inflicting mental pain, anguish, or distress on an elder person through verbal or nonverbal acts.
- **Sexual Abuse:** Non-consensual sexual contact of any kind.
- **Exploitation:** Illegal taking, misuse, or concealment of funds, property, or assets of a vulnerable elder.
- **Neglect:** Refusal or failure by those responsible to provide food, shelter, health care or protection for a vulnerable elder.
- **Abandonment:** The desertion of a vulnerable elder by anyone who has assumed the responsibility for care or custody of that person.

What makes an older adult vulnerable to abuse?

- Social isolation and mental impairment (such as dementia or Alzheimer's disease) are two factors that may make an older person more vulnerable to abuse. But, in some situations, studies show that living with someone else (a caregiver or a friend) may increase the chances for abuse to occur. A history of domestic violence may also make a senior more susceptible to abuse.

How can I help stop elder abuse?

Knowing the warning signs of abuse is a first step toward protecting elders.

- Some specific tips: Becoming a community "sentinel" - Keep a watchful eye out for loved ones, friends, or neighbors who may be vulnerable.
- Speak up if you have concerns. That means even if you are not sure. You have a right to question.
- Be involved. Volunteer with older adults in your community. Support initiatives to increase and strengthen adult protective services in your state.

Personal Problems of Abusers

Particularly in the case of adult children, abusers often are dependent on their victims for financial assistance, housing, and other forms of support. Oftentimes they need this support because of personal problems, such as mental illness, alcohol or drug abuse, or other dysfunctional personality characteristics.

Elder Abuse is a Crime

How to report abuse

- Call 911 for emergencies
- Call APS:
(Adult Protective Services)
1-800-846-9165

Elderly Persons & Persons with Disabilities Abuse Prevention Act (EPPDAPA)

Guidelines

- One incident of abuse required
- Abuse must have taken place within the last six months (unless abuser in jail or 100 miles away)
- Physical pain or injury caused by other than accidental means; Neglect that leads to physical harm; Abandonment or desertion or neglect by a care-giver or other person owing care duties; inappropriate sexual comments or conduct or language of such nature as to threaten significant physical or emotional harm to the elderly or disabled person
- Immediate and present danger of further abuse

How do I get an EPPDAPA protective order?

- You can obtain paperwork at the Women's Resource Center or the Clatsop County Circuit Court Family Resource Center.
- Advocates from Women's Resource Center are available to accompany you through the court process (503-325-3426),

Bring with you: Identification (driver's license or other photo ID) and an address where the abuser can be personally served with the protective order.