

Protection and Prevention for Older Adults

- Stay active and involved with community groups, organizations or churches
- Have numerous, strong relationships
- Have scheduled times you are to check in with trusted friends and they with you
- Check your financial statements each month and keep paperwork out of sight
- Have an attorney check documents before you sign
- Do not give out personal information over the phone
- Do not wire money to anyone claiming to be your family member from out of town
- Do not let anyone in your home you are unsure of
- Trust your gut! If something doesn't feel right, it probably isn't
- If you are experiencing abuse or suspect that an older adult you know is a victim of abuse, seek help.



Recognize the Signs in Older Adults

- Appears hungry, malnourished, dehydrated, unclean or injured
- Bruises or untreated injuries
- Seems nervous or frightened
- Changes in personality or lack of interest in activities that they used to enjoy
- Unusual patterns of spending or withdrawals
- Out of character donations or gifts to charities or "new best friends"
- Sudden change in will or other financial documents
- Unpaid bills when there are adequate resources available
- Unexplained disappearance of possessions or funds
- Isolation and refusal to allow visitors in home or to see elder alone
- Unsafe living conditions



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WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE



**Ashland County
Safe Haven**
Rape Crisis & Domestic
Violence Services

**24 HOUR ANONYMOUS HOTLINE:
419-289-8085**



Appleseed Safe Haven is a program of Appleseed
Community Mental Health Center Community Mental Health Center.

What is Elder Abuse?

Elder abuse is an intentional act, or failure to act, by a caregiver or another person in a relationship involving an expectation of trust that causes or creates a risk of harm to an older adult. *(an older adult is defined as someone age 60 or older).*

Forms of Abuse

Physical Abuse

- The use of physical force that may result in bodily injury, physical pain, or impairment; Hitting, beating, pushing, shaking, slapping, kicking, pinching, burning; inappropriate use of medications, physical restraints and physical punishment

Sexual Abuse

- Non-consensual sexual contact of any kind with an elderly person; sexual contact with any person incapable of giving consent, unwanted touching, all types of sexual assault or battery, such as rape, sodomy, coerced nudity, and sexually explicit photographing

Emotional Abuse

- The infliction of anguish, pain, or distress through verbal or nonverbal acts; verbal assaults, insults, threats, intimidation, humiliation, and harassment; treating an older person like an infant, isolating an elderly person from his/her family, friends, or regular activities; giving an older person the "silent treatment" and enforced social isolation

Neglect

- The refusal or failure to fulfill any part of a person's obligations or duties to an elder; failure of a person who has fiduciary responsibilities to provide care for an elder (*e.g., pay for necessary home care services*) or the failure on the part of an in-home service provider to provide necessary care
- Refusal or failure to provide an elderly person with such life necessities as food, water, clothing, shelter, personal hygiene, medicine, comfort, personal safety, and other essentials included in an implied or agreed-upon responsibility to an elder

Financial Exploitation

- The illegal or improper use of an elder's funds, property, or assets; cashing an elderly person's checks without authorization or permission; forging an older person's signature; misusing or stealing an older person's money or possessions; coercing or deceiving an older person into signing any document (*e.g., contracts or will*); and the improper use of conservatorship, guardianship, or power of attorney

Stalking

- A course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear; repeated, unwanted, intrusive and frightening communications by phone, mail and/or email; unwanted presents; following or waiting; damaging or threatening property; harassing and spreading rumors

Abandonment

- The desertion of an elderly person by an individual who has assumed responsibility for providing care for an elder, or by a person with physical custody of an elder

Self-neglect

- The behavior of an elderly person that threatens his/her own health or safety; refusal or failure to provide himself/herself with adequate food, water, clothing, shelter, personal hygiene, medication (*when indicated*), and safety precautions

DID YOU KNOW?

- Elder abuse triples the risk of premature death and causes unnecessary illness, injury, and suffering.
- Victims of elder abuse are four times more likely to be admitted to a nursing home and three times more likely to be admitted to a hospital.
- More than half of older victims are older than 80. Two-thirds are women. Sixty percent of abuse victims show signs of dementia or confusion and more than 40% show signs of depression.
- Don't assume that a loved one couldn't possibly be abusing an older adult. Ninety percent of abusers are, in fact, family members. Of family members who abuse seniors, 50% percent are adult children and 20% are intimate partners. Other abusers include friends, neighbors, and service providers. Men and women abuse older adults almost equally: 48% of abusers are women; 52% are men.