



# Recognizing and Reporting Elder Abuse

Elder abuse is a critical problem facing aging adults in our care and communities.

## Elder Abuse Definition

**eld·er a·buse**

/eldər ə'byōōz/  
noun

An intentional or negligent act by any person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to an older adult.

## There are 5 types of elder abuse

- 1 Physical abuse
- 2 Sexual abuse
- 3 Psychological abuse
- 4 Financial exploitation
- 5 Neglect, self-neglect, and abandonment

## The Scope of Elder Abuse

1 in 6 people aged 60+ experienced elder abuse in the last year.



Elder abuse is vastly underreported, affecting up to 80% of aging adults in some regions.

## How to Report Elder Abuse

1. Report to Adult Protective Services (APS)
2. Report to Local Law Enforcement
3. Report to Long-Term Care Ombudsman

\*Your reporting requirements may vary. Reference your state for legal reporting requirements.

## Essential Resources for Reporting Elder Abuse

*Mandated Reporter Training*

State-specific and profession-specific training

*U.S. Department of Justice*

Elder justice neighborhood resources and programs

*National Adult Protective Services Association*

Local APS contact information

*MandatedReporter.com*

State-by-state database for mandated reporters

## Special Populations at Higher Risk



Living in Rural Areas



LGBTQ+ Elders



Cognitively Impaired & Disabled Adults



Immigrants or Language Barriers

## Elder Abuse Red Flags



### Physical & Sexual Abuse Red Flags

- Unexplained injuries
- Sudden change in behavior
- Fear of caregivers
- Self-reports of physical or sexual abuse



### Emotional & Psychological Abuse Red Flags

- Emotionally upset, agitated, or withdrawn
- Unusual behavior
- Depression or anxiety
- Self-reports of emotional mistreatment



### Financial Exploitation Red Flags

- Sudden changes in bank accounts or banking practices
- Abrupt changes in a will or other financial documents
- Unexplained disappearance of funds or valuable possessions
- Self-reports of financial exploitation



### Neglect or Abandonment Red Flags

- Dehydration, malnutrition, and poor personal hygiene
- Unattended or untreated health problems
- Hazardous or unsafe living conditions
- Self-reports of neglect or abandonment

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is

