

ELDER ABUSE

FACTS ABOUT ELDER ABUSE

Elder abuse is any harm done to an older person that is violent or abusive

Elder abuse is often a crime.

The abuse can be caused by a family member, a friend, staff in a group residential setting such as care homes or anyone the older person relies on for basic needs

Someone who commits elder abuse usually has control or influence over the older person

Caregiver stress, personal and financial problems may be factors that contribute to elder abuse

Harm caused by strangers may be considered a crime but is not elder abuse

TYPES OF ELDER ABUSE

Physical Abuse: Physical assault from slapping, pushing, beating an older person or forced confinement in a room, bed or chair.

Sexual Abuse: Any unwanted form of sexual activity, or sexual assault.

Financial Abuse: Forcing an older person to sell personal property, stealing an older person's money, pension cheques, or possessions. Fraud, forgery and extortion, or the wrongful use of Power of Attorney.

Neglect: Abandoning an older person, withholding food and health services, or deliberately failing to give someone who is dependent what he or she needs.

Mental Abuse: Humiliating, insulting, frightening, threatening, or ignoring an older person. Treating an older person like a child.

Some of these actions may be crimes in certain circumstances. For example, it is a crime to threaten to physically harm a person

What can the Police do?

If you have been abused, or if you think someone else is being abused, **tell the police**. Call the police even if you think that the incident is not very significant. Calling the police is an important part of protecting yourself. Telling the police about crimes that have happened is one way to prevent further crimes. The police can investigate the report. The investigation may include:

A detailed signed statement from the victim

Statements from neighbors, other family members, or service providers who may have evidence

Photographs of any injuries

A medical report

WHAT DO VICTIMS OF ELDER ABUSE NEED?

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Safety, shelter, access to financial resources
Home support services so they are not dependent on the abuser, or housing options to meet their needs
Emotional support, counselling, greater links to the community
Information about the criminal justice system (especially if the abuser is a family member)

REFERRALS

<i>Victim Services of Huron County</i>	524-4108
<i>Huron Adult Day Center; contact Lisa</i>	482-7943
<i>Senior Mental Health Program</i>	519-272-8210 ex.2205, Contact: Linda
<i>Town and Country Support Services</i>	1-800-265-3039
.....	After hours 1-888-215-5273
<i>Ont. Drug Benefit Program</i>	1-888-405-0405
<i>Seniors/Health Inquiry Line</i>	1-888-910-1999
<i>Women's Shelter, Second Stage Housing and Counselling Services of Huron</i>	1-800-265-5506 or 524-5333
<i>Old Age Security/CPP</i>	1-800-277-9914
.....	TTY: 1-800-255-4786
<i>Ont. Network for Prevention of Elder Abuse</i>	1-416-978-1716
<i>Victim Support Line</i>	416-916-6728
<i>Advocacy Centre for the Elderly</i>	1-416-598-2656
<i>Legal Clinic</i>	1-866-867-1027
<i>Community Care Access</i>	1-800-267-0535
<i>VON-South Huron</i>	235-2510
<i>Alzheimer Society of Huron County</i>	482-1482
<i>Caregiver support</i>	1-800-561-5012