



Elder Abuse Prevention



Each year, June 15th marks World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, a time to bring together senior citizens, their caregivers and governments and focus attention on the problem of physical, emotional and financial abuse of elders. Preventing abuse against the elderly, however, is a year-round concern.

Everyone can play a role, by learning the signs of abuse and knowing how to get help. In the U.S., one of the best resources is the **National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA)**, part of the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration on Aging. Go to their website (ncea.aoa.gov) to find assistance, including information on these important intervention partners:

Adult Protective Services – In most states, APS caseworkers are the first responders to reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation of vulnerable adults.

Social Services – Can help put together a plan of care and marshal various social services.

Long-term Care Ombudsman – Works to resolve complaints against long-term care facilities and prevent abuse, neglect and exploitation through education, site visits and other activities.

Law Enforcement – Gets involved in arresting perpetrators, enforcing restraining orders, performing “well-being” checks and assisting APS in conducting investigations.

Judicial System – Plays a role in hearing various cases involving elder abuse.


Health Care System – Physicians, nurses, dentists and other health care professionals have a unique relationship with the elderly and may be able to identify and address abuse and neglect.

Domestic Violence – Services include crisis intervention, safety planning, advocacy, legal assistance, peer counseling, emergency shelter and cell phone loans.

Faith Communities – By visiting the elderly in their homes, clergy and members of faith communities may be able to observe and report signs of abuse or neglect.

In Your State

State reporting numbers, government agencies, state laws, state-specific data and other resources can be identified using the NCEA's map at ncea.aoa.gov/Stop_Abuse/Get_Help/State/index.aspx or by calling the Eldercare Locator at 800-677-1116. (Note: If a situation is serious, threatening or dangerous get immediate help by calling 911 or the local police.)



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