

## What is Elder Abuse?

Elder abuse is an act of harm either intentionally or carelessly that causes harm or serious risk of harm to an older person. Elder abuse includes:

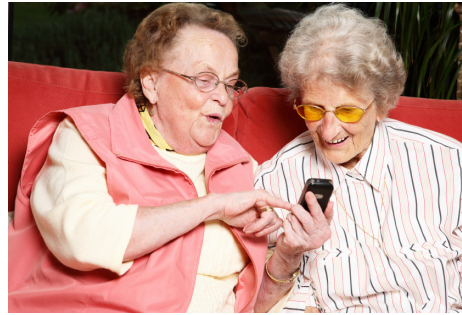
- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Exploitation
- Neglect
- Abandonment
- Self-Neglect



## Who commits Elder Abuse?

Abuse to the elderly can be committed by anyone. Generally elder abuse has been caused by the following:

- Family Members
- Caregivers
- Neighbors
- Friends (old & new)
- Nursing home employees
- Independent Service Contractors



Everyone, no matter their gender, age or race deserves to be treated with care and respect. Everyone deserves to be safe from harm by those who live with them, care for them or have contact with them.

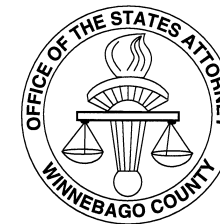


The Duty of the Prosecutor is to seek Justice,  
not merely to convict.

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City of Rockford Human Services Department  
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## *Preventing Elder Abuse*



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## *Warning Signs of Elder Abuse...*

Warning signs of Elder abuse can vary based on the type of abuse. Elder abuse warning signs may include :

- Bruising, welts, burns, bed sores or other marks on the skin
- Broken bones or sprains.
- Unusual weight loss, malnutrition or dehydration.
- Withdrawal from normal social activity.
- Caregiver refusal to allow contact with the elder alone.
- Behavior that mimics dementia, such as rocking, sucking or mumbling to themselves.
- Unexplained sexually transmitted diseases, torn or stained underclothing.
- Unclean, not bathed or Unsani-tary living conditions
- Sudden change in Finances in-cluding significant withdrawals from bank accounts.
- Unexplained changes in wills or beneficiaries.
- Unnecessary service, goods or subscriptions.
- Evidence of overmedication or not being medicated.
- Problems with care facility:
  - \* Poorly trained staff
  - \* Insufficient staff
  - \* Overcrowded facility
  - \* Inadequate responses to questions

## **Abusers Behavioral Signs...**

Although there is not a typical profile of an abuser the behavioral signs below may indicate problems:

- Drug or alcohol abuse
- Controlling elder's actions
- Isolating elder from family or friends
- Threatening to leave or send elder to a nursing home.
- Emotional or Financial dependency on the elder.
- Threatening to harm the elder's pets
- Calling the elder names
- Previous criminal history
- Mental illness

## **How to help...**

Every elderly person has the right to be safe from harm. Listed below are ways you can help:

- Understand that Elder Abuse exists and recognize the signs.
- Know your elderly neighbors and check in on them periodically.
- Report any suspicions of elder abuse to the proper authorities.

If you suspect an elderly person is being abused, neglected or exploited call the police or report it to adult protective services right away.



## **Who to call...**

To report elder abuse you can call local authorities:

For emergencies dial 911

Rockford City Police Department:  
Non-Emergency Line (815) 966-2900

Winnebago County Sheriff Department:  
Non-Emergency Line (815) 319-6000

National Center on Elder Abuse:  
[www.elderabusecenter.org](http://www.elderabusecenter.org)  
(202) 898-2586

Elder Abuse Hotline:  
1-866-800-1409

National Eldercare Locator:  
1-800-677-1116



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