



# **ELDER ABUSE**

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# WHY DISCUSS ELDER ABUSE?

1. The impact it has on survivors (trauma, anxiety, grief).
2. Potential physical injury and psychological consequences.
3. Help individuals regain self worth, reclaim one's own power.

# Ohio Law

## Definition of Elder Abuse

In Ohio, elder abuse refers to the abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a vulnerable adult aged 60 or older.

- **Physical Abuse:** Inflicting physical harm or injury.
- **Emotional Abuse:** Causing psychological harm through verbal or non-verbal actions.
- **Neglect:** Failing to provide necessary care, leading to harm or risk of harm.
- **Financial Exploitation:** Improper use of an older adult's resources for personal gain, which can include deception or intimidation.

# PUNISHABLE

Offenses are graded as misdemeanors but can escalate to a fourth-degree felony if the neglect results in serious physical harm.

Convictions can result in incarceration, fines, and court-ordered supervision.

**Factors to consider:** Perpetrator's relationship to the victim.

- Caregiver
- Family member
- Trusted individual
- Institution

## COMMON SIGNS OF ELDER ABUSE

- Unexplained bruises, burns, cuts, or scars
- Lack of basic hygiene, adequate food and water, or clean and appropriate clothing
- Lack of medical aids (glasses, walker, teeth, hearing aid, medications)
- Sunken eyes or unexplained weight loss
- Untreated bedsores
- Dismissive attitude or statements about injuries

# COMMON SIGNS OF ELDER ABUSE

## (CONTINUED)

- Unreasonably fearful or suspicious
- Lack of interest in social contacts
- Unexplained or uncharacteristic changes in behavior
- Unexplained vaginal or anal bleeding
- Venereal diseases or vaginal infections
- Signs of insufficient care or unpaid bills despite adequate financial resources
- Large withdrawals from bank accounts or other unusual ATM activity



# WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT ELDER ABUSE

- Check for danger. Call 911 if danger is imminent.
- Look for warning signs. Gather evidence.
- If possible, speak to the elder-in private/safe environment. Share concern.
- Document findings, Report the concern.

# RESOURCES

- Ohio: Adult Protective Services: Call 1-855-OHIO-APS (1-855-644-6277)
- National Elder Fraud Hotline; **(833-372-8311)** 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Eastern Time Monday – Friday
- National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA). Educational in nature.
- Eldercare Locator 1800-677-1116 Connect with local services
- National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) Focus on prevention

# TO REPORT INCIDENTS OF ABUSE IN LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

- To report incidents of abuse in long-term care facilities, contact the Ohio Department of Health's complaint hotline ([Abuse, Neglect, Misappropriation, and Exploitation | Ohio Department of Health](#))
- Or by calling 1-800-342-0553



**WHAT IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING ABUSE**

**Talk to someone**