

Mandatory Reporting

Identifying Elder Abuse

Elder Abuse is defined as any abuse, exploitation, or neglect of anyone 70 years old or older. Abuse being physically abused, unreasonably confined or restrained, sexually abused, neglected by a caretaker or financially exploited.

Know what questions to ask and what signs to look for when identifying suspected elder abuse. Speak up and call police if you suspect someone is being abused. You might save someone's life.

Many elders who are being abused are often embarrassed or afraid to say something. That is why it is critical to speak up, ask questions, and call to report suspicions of elder abuse.

Don't make assumptions. Ask questions.

Tip 1: An abuser often accompanies the victim to various places and appointments. To ensure a safe environment for conversation, it is always a good idea to ask to talk to the elder alone.

Tip 2: Aging skin is thin, but it doesn't always explain bruising or skin tears. Ask about the injury.

Tip 3: Walking gingerly is not necessarily a sign of aging. Be sure to examine feet for sores and poor hygiene.

Tip 4: Confusion about financial transactions is not always a sign of aging. Ask questions to make sure the confusion is not a symptom of financial exploitation.

Tip 5: Confusion about or changes related to Wills or Power of Attorney documents may be a sign of financial abuse. Be sure to carefully review documents and ask questions to ensure the elder clearly understands and approves any changes that have been made.

Tip 6: Wiring money or withdrawing an unusual amount of money is a possible sign of financial abuse. Ask questions aimed at making sure the person is not being pressured to make the transaction.

Reporting suspected abuse can lead victims to safety – physical safety, financial safety, emotional safety – and link them with professionals and services that can ultimately prove to be life-saving,

Signs of elder abuse may include, but are not limited to, bruising, black eyes, burns, fractures, unwanted sexual contact, isolation or lack of basic care. Financial exploitation includes Illegal or improper use of an older adult's funds, property or assets.

Eighty percent of elder abuse occurs from someone the victim knows such as a family member, care giver, advisor or friend,

Mistreatment Categories

Exploitation means taking an at-risk adult's money or other assets against their will or without their knowledge. It also means deceiving, harassing, intimidating, or using undue influence to get the adult to do something against their will.

Caregiver Neglect occurs when an at-risk adult's caregiver fails to make sure the adult has adequate food, clothing, shelter, psychological care, physical care, medical care, or supervision.

Physical Abuse is hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, burning, confining, or restraining an at-risk adult.

Self-Neglect occurs when an at-risk adult cannot or does not care for himself or herself. Choice of lifestyle, by itself, is not proof of self-neglect.

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RESOURCES

APS Phone Numbers throughout Colorado

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?blobcol=urldata&blobheadername1=Content-Disposition&blobheadername2=Content-Type&blobheadervalue1=inline%3B+filename%3D%22APS+Intake+Phone+Numbers.pdf%22&blobheadervalue2=application%2Fpdf&blobkey=id&blobtable=MungoBlobs&blobwhere=125193586621&ssbinary=true>

Law Enforcement Phone Numbers Throughout Colorado

<http://www.denvergov.org/Portals/692/documents/SpeakUp/LawEnforcementPhoneNumbers.pdf>

General FAQ

<http://www.denvergov.org/Portals/692/documents/SpeakUp/MandatoryReportingFAQ.pdf>

Questions

Maro Casparian | Denver DA Office
720-913-9036, amc@denverda.org

DPD Special Victims Unit
Non-emergency line 720-913-2000
911 for Emergency

Linda Loflin Pettit | Denver City Attorney's Office
720-913-4979, linda.loflinpettit@denvergov.org

Whitney Nettleton | Denver Adult Protection Services
720-944-2900, whitney.nettleton@denvergov.org