

## What is Elder Abuse?

According to the World Health Organization, Elder Abuse is “a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which **causes harm or distress** to an older person”.

Elder Abuse can be physical, sexual, financial, or neglect.



If you spot it, report it. Call the Wisconsin Elder Abuse Hotline toll free at **1-833-586-0107** or visit [ReportElderAbuseWI.org](https://ReportElderAbuseWI.org).

## REPORT ELDER ABUSE!

If you feel that you are a victim of Elder Abuse or you believe it has been inflicted upon someone you know or love, REPORT IT!

RESPECT YOUR ELDERS  
**REPORT ABUSE**

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or visit [ReportElderAbuseWI.org](https://ReportElderAbuseWI.org)

This product was supported by grant number 2020-V3-GX-0006, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this product are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.



## The Warning Signs of Elder Abuse



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## Financial Abuse Warning Signs

Financial abuse is defined as any criminal action where someone else obtains another person's money or property through deceit, failure of a fiscal agent to fulfill duties, or unauthorized use of identifying information or documents.

### The following signs or symptoms may point to abuse:

- Sudden changes in bank accounts or large withdrawals
- New names added to a bank account
- Unexplained disappearance of money or other valuables
- Delinquent bills despite having adequate funds
- Forged signature on financial paperwork



## Physical or Sexual Abuse Warning Signs

Physical abuse is considered any intentional or reckless infliction of physical pain, illness, or impairment on a vulnerable adult. Sexual abuse is considered sexual contact or intercourse with another person without consent.

### The following signs or symptoms may point to abuse:

#### Physical abuse

- Bruises, welts, lacerations, head/bone fractures, or other marks or signs of being restrained
- Open wounds; untreated injuries
- Sprains, dislocations, internal injuries
- Sudden changes in mood or behavior

#### Sexual abuse

- Bruises near genital area or breasts
- Venereal disease or genital infections, often unexplained
- Vaginal or anal bleeding, often unexplained or unnoticed
- Garments that are torn, stained or bloody



## Neglect Warning Signs

Neglect refers to failure of caregivers to secure or maintain adequate care, services, or supervision for a person.

#### Physical abuse

- Obvious dehydration and/or malnutrition
- Worsening bedsores or poor personal hygiene
- Health concerns being untreated
- Hazardous or unsafe living conditions
- Dirt, fleas, soiled bedding, lack of proper clothing, or other unsanitary conditions

Look for signs included above in the Neglect section. **Self-neglect differs from neglect** because it does not involve an abuser. Instead, it occurs when an individual fails to provide or obtain adequate care or safety precautions for themselves, resulting in a significant danger to the individuals physical and/or mental health.

Learn more about how to identify the symptoms at:  
[ReportElderAbuseWI.org](https://www.ReportElderAbuseWI.org)