

FAMILY VIOLENCE PROSECUTION UNIT

The Family Violence Prosecution Unit and the Victim-Witness Assistance Program together are equipped to assist victims of elder abuse.

There are many different types of abuse.

Physical Abuse is the use of force against an elderly person that results in physical pain, injury, or impairment. Such abuse can include: hitting, shoving, inappropriate use of drugs, restraints, confinement or depriving them of basic needs.

Sexual Abuse is sexual contact with an elderly person without the person's consent. This abuse can be in the form of physical sex acts, showing pornographic material, forcing the person to watch sex acts.

Emotional/Psychological Abuse occurs when a person is spoken to in ways that cause emotional pain such as yelling, threats, humiliation, blaming, and harassment. Nonverbal abuse can take the form of ignoring, isolating from others, and terrorizing the person.

Neglect is the refusal or failure by those responsible to provide food, shelter, health care, or protection.

Abandonment is the desertion of an elder by anyone who has assumed the responsibility for care or custody of that person.

Financial exploitation is the unauthorized use of an elderly person's funds or property, either by a caregiver or an outside scam artist.

Why does it occur?

- **Resentment** can occur when caring for an elderly parent.
- **Lack of love and friendship.**
- **Violence** is seen as an acceptable way to solve problems.
- **Retaliation** by children who want to get back at their parents for past mistreatment.
- **Longer life spans** of older people can now cause them to depend on their families for longer periods of time.
- **Lack of services** such as health and social services in the community, may cause caregiver to be unable to handle the responsibility of caring for an elderly parent.
- **Money problems** may cause a caregiver to depend on older person for money.
- **Social problems** such as unemployment and poor living conditions may lead to abuse.



PREVENTION TIPS

- Avoid becoming isolated, keep in touch with family and friends
 - Keep valuables in a safe place
 - Do no give out any information over the telephone
 - Seek legal advice when making important decisions regarding possessions and finances
 - Be careful as to who has access to personal and financial information
 - Be aware of bogus charities, and investment frauds
 - Never give out your social security number, credit card number or bank account number
- ### Preventing Elder Abuse and Neglect
- **Educating** others about how to recognize and report elder abuse
 - **Intervening** when you suspect elder abuse
 - **Listening** to seniors and their caregivers