

What is Elder Abuse?

Abuse is any single or repeated act, threat, lack of appropriate action compromising the safety or wellbeing of an older person.

TYPES OF ABUSE

Physical (including sexual assault): Punching, slapping, rough handling, gestures of violence, forcible restraints.

Psychological: Threats to harm, unwanted institutionalization, harassment, abandonment, removal of decision-making ability.

Financial: Theft of money, property or assets. It includes but is not limited to forging an older person's signature, forcing a senior to change their Power of Attorney or Will. It is using the senior's property or assets without permission. Use deception, trickery, false pretence for financial gain.

Neglect: Failing to provide basic or personal needs, lack of attention or abandonment resulting in a risk or harm to an older person.

SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS OF ABUSE

Physical abuse: Unexplained injuries, untreated medical problems, history of "accidents", inconsistent stories for injuries, bruising in odd places or bilateral.

Psychological abuse: Fear, anxiety, depression, withdrawal, reluctance to speak freely, other person always speaking for senior.

Financial abuse: Overcharging for services or products, sudden unexplained inability to pay bills, unusual banking activity, senior's home unexpectedly sold, unexplained sudden transfer of assets, abrupt change in will, Power of Attorney or financial documents.

Neglect: Unkempt appearance, inappropriate or dirty clothing, infrequent bathing or poor hygiene, malnourishment or dehydration, unhealthy or dangerous living conditions, untreated medical conditions or injury.



OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE
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Always trust your instincts. If you or a senior you know is a victim of crime, report it to the police immediately.



HOW TO MAKE A REPORT TO POLICE

For emergencies where the safety of a senior is in imminent risk, call **911**.

For financially related elder abuse call **613-236-1222** ext. **7300**.

For all other forms of elder abuse, call **613-230-6211** or attend the police station nearest you.

For information or advice on elder abuse call the consultation line at **613-236-1222** ext. **2400**.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A POLICE REPORT IS MADE?

The police will do a risk assessment. The complainant/victim may have to provide a video statement to police. All evidence of a crime will be collected (for example financial documents, video, photos) and witnesses will be interviewed. Once Police determine that there is reasonable and probable grounds to believe a criminal offence was committed, a decision to charge or warn the suspect will be made by consulting the victim. Alternative solutions may also be explored (ie health, social and community agencies). If a warning is the best solution, the suspect will be formally warned by police. If the suspect is arrested and charged, all persons involved including the complainant, victim and witnesses may have to testify in court. There are several steps in the criminal court process which can prove lengthy. A trial can take several days. In financial abuse cases, the police cannot recover the money taken. Only a judge can order restitution.

RESOURCES:

For information on senior's abuse or safety in your home visit the Ottawa Police Service Web site at www.ottawapolice.ca or

Ottawa Police Resources:

To file a report, call **613-236-1222** or for emergencies, call **911**

Elder Abuse Information Line **613-236-1222**, ext. **2400**

Victim Crisis Unit **613-236-1222** ext. **2223**

Visit www.ottawapolice.ca

Ottawa Resources:

Distress centre Ottawa **613-238-3311**

or visit www.dcottawa.on.ca

Ottawa Public Health **613-580-6744**

or visit www.ottawa.ca

Nepean Rideau and Osgoode Community Resource
Centre Elder Abuse Response and Referral Service
613-596-5626 ext. **230** or visit www.nrocr.org

