

**Report elder abuse:
It's the law!**

**Report to the main line or
your Department of
Social Services regional
office.**

State of CT main line for
Protective Services for the
Elderly:

(1-888-385-4225)

District Offices:

Bridgeport

Telephone: 203-551-2701

New Haven

Telephone: 203-974-8029

Stamford

Telephone: 203-251-9392



**For more information,
please visit:**

State of CT
Department on Aging:
(1-860-424-5274)

www.ct.gov/agingservices

National Center for Elder Abuse:

www.ncea.aoa.gov

National Committee to Prevent
Elder Abuse:

www.preventelderabuse.org



Office of the Victim Advocate

505 Hudson Street, 5th Floor

Hartford, CT, 06106

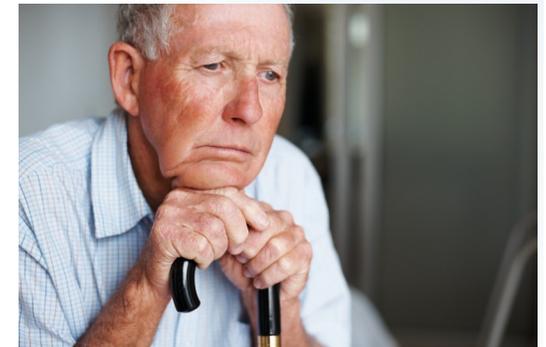
860-550-6632

Toll Free 1-888-771-3126

Fax: 860-560-7065

www.ct.gov/ova

A Guide to Dealing with Elder Abuse



What is elder abuse?

According to Connecticut statutes 17b-450-452, elder abuse includes, but is not limited to:

- ◆ The willful infliction of physical pain, injury or mental anguish to a person aged 60 or older
- ◆ The willful deprivation by a caretaker of services which are necessary to maintain physical and mental health to a person aged 60 or older

According to the National Center on Elder Abuse, there are seven types of abuse:

- ◆ **Physical Abuse:** the use of physical force that may result in bodily injury, physical pain, or impairment
- ◆ **Sexual Abuse:** non-consensual sexual contact of any kind with an elderly person
- ◆ **Emotional or Psychological Abuse:** the infliction of anguish, pain, or distress through verbal or nonverbal acts
- ◆ **Neglect:** the refusal or failure to fulfill any part of a person's obligations or duties to an elder
- ◆ **Abandonment:** the desertion of an elderly person by an individual who has assumed responsibility for providing care for an elder
- ◆ **Financial or Material Exploitation:** the illegal or improper use of an elder's funds, property, or assets
- ◆ **Self-neglect:** the behavior of an elderly person that threatens his/her own health or safety

What are some signs and symptoms of elder abuse?

- ◆ Bruises, welts, black eyes, lacerations, and unhealed wounds
- ◆ The caregiver's refusal to allow the elder to be seen alone
- ◆ Being extremely withdrawn, non-communicative, or unresponsive
- ◆ Being emotionally upset or agitated
- ◆ Hazardous or unsafe living conditions/arrangements
- ◆ The desertion of an elder in a public shopping area, or nursing facility
- ◆ Abrupt changes in bank accounts, wills, or other financial documents
- ◆ The inclusion of additional signatures on financial documents
- ◆ Inappropriate and/or inadequate clothing, lack of necessary medical aids

*Please note that not all victims of elder abuse display these signs. Depending on the type of abuse, the symptoms will vary.

Is elder abuse a big problem?

- ◆ According to a recent study, about 10% of the elderly population experiences abuse
- ◆ A recent estimate also states that only about 1 in 14 cases of elder abuse is reported to authorities
- ◆ Unfortunately, as the population of elderly people expands, so does the risk for elder abuse
- ◆ Another disturbing trend in elder abuse is that about 90% of the abusers are family members of the victim

What can family and friends do to help?

- ◆ Visit an elderly person often and make time to talk with them in private
- ◆ Familiarize oneself with the symptoms of elder abuse and helpful resources
- ◆ Be observant and speak up when something seems wrong
- ◆ Always report suspected abuse



What can older adults do to protect themselves?

- ◆ Tell a trusted person about the abuse
- ◆ Refrain from giving away money, social security and credit card information
- ◆ Have a trusted person review documents before they are signed
- ◆ Seek medical help when needed and confide in the doctor if abuse is occurring