

NYC ELDER ABUSE PROGRAMS

CITYWIDE

APS - Adult Protective Services
(212) 630-1853

CONNECT Legal Advocacy Help Line
(212) 683-0605
(M-F, 9:30am – 5:00pm)
connect@connectnyc.org

NYC Department for the Aging (DFTA)
Elderly Crime Victim Resource Center
(212) 442-3103 or **311** (all languages)

Mount Sinai Hospital
Elder Abuse/Neglect Program
(212) 241-6774

Safe Horizons
(800) 621-4673 (24/7)

Weinberg Center for Elder Abuse Prevention
at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale
(800) 567-3646

BRONX

District Attorney Elder Abuse Coordinator
(718) 590-2260

Neighborhood SHOPP VIP Program
Serving South, West & Mid;
Riverdale, Marble Hill
(718) 542-0006
(English, Spanish, Haitian Creole)

RAIN - Regional Aid for Interim Needs Inc.
Serving North & East Bronx;
Fordham, Woodlawn
(347) 346-9676 (English, Spanish)

KING'S - BROOKLYN

District Attorney Elder Abuse Unit
(718) 250-3071

JASA LEAP
Jewish Association Serving the Aging
(718) 943-7723 (English, Russian, Spanish)

MANHATTAN

NEW YORK - MANHATTAN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY HOTLINE
(212) 335-9007

Carter Burden Center for the Aging
Serving North of 59th Street
(212) 879-7400 x116
onaitisk@carterburdencenters.org

JASA LEAP
Jewish Association Serving the Aging
Serving South of 59th Street
(212) 273-5272 (English, Russian, Spanish)

QUEENS

District Attorney's Elder Abuse Project
(718) 286-6562

JASA LEAP
Jewish Association Serving the Aging
(718) 286-1500 x1525
(English, Russian, Spanish)

STATEN ISLAND

CASC
Community Agency for Senior Citizens
(718) 981-6226 x146

Dear New Yorker,

Elder abuse happens to people 60 years of age or older, when someone close to them causes harm or threatens harm – or when someone is targeted as a victim because of their age or disability. Elder abuse includes, but is not limited to, physical, psychological, emotional, or sexual abuse, intentional neglect, abandonment, and financial exploitation.

Unlike random acts of violence or exploitation, elder abuse usually consists of repetitive instances of misconduct. It encompasses any act of commission or omission that results in harm or threatened harm to the health and welfare of an older adult.

The City of New York, in conjunction with the agencies that are listed, are here to help you in seeking a safer life should you find yourself as the victim of elder abuse.

This brochure will help to familiarize you with the different types of elder abuse as well as the many organizations and groups that can be of assistance to victims.



Jessica S. Lappin
Council Member



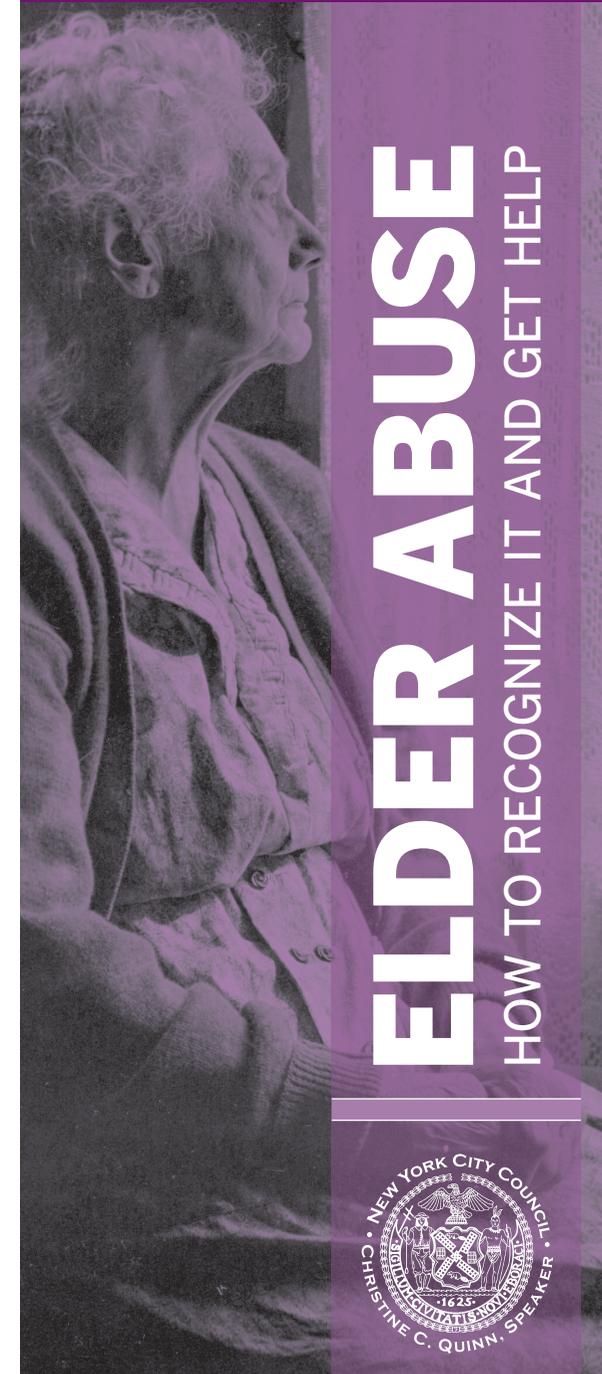
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THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL



WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?

ELDER ABUSE

Each year, hundreds of thousands of older New Yorkers are abused, neglected, and exploited. Many victims are people who are older, frail, and often vulnerable and cannot help themselves, depending on others to meet their most basic needs. Abusers of older adults are both women and men, and may be family members, friends, or “trusted others.”

In general, elder abuse is a term referring to any knowing, intentional, or negligent act by a caregiver or any other person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to an often vulnerable adult. Legislatures in all 50 states have passed some form of elder abuse prevention laws. Laws and definitions of terms vary considerably from one state to another, but broadly defined, abuse may be:

- **Physical Abuse** - inflicting physical pain or injury on a senior, e.g. slapping, bruising, or restraining by physical or chemical means.
- **Sexual Abuse** - non-consensual sexual contact of any kind.
- **Neglect** - the failure by those responsible to provide food, shelter, health care, or protection for an often vulnerable elder.
- **Exploitation** - the illegal taking, misuse, or concealment of funds, property, or assets of a senior for someone else’s benefit.
- **Emotional Abuse** - inflicting mental pain, anguish, or distress on an elder person through verbal or nonverbal acts, e.g. humiliating, intimidating, or threatening.
- **Abandonment** - desertion of an often vulnerable elder by anyone who has assumed the responsibility for care or custody of that person.

Findings from “Under the Radar,” a New York State Elder Abuse Prevalence Study, Administered by the New York State Office of Family and Children Services, 2010:

- **76** out of every **1,000** older New Yorkers is a victim of elder abuse in a one year period.
- **9%** of all New York City residents, **age 60+**, are elder abuse victims. This is about **120,000** people.
- An estimated **260,000** older adults statewide have been victims of at least one form of elder abuse in the past year.
- For every **24** older New Yorkers experiencing elder abuse, only 1 incident is reported to any authority such as law enforcement, social services or medical care.
- The most common form of elder abuse, as self-reported by victims, is **financial abuse**. The study also reported high incidences of psychological and physical abuse.

Common myths and concerns of older people being hurt by another person

1. “Family matters are private and should stay that way.”
2. “Nobody else has gone through this, so nobody will understand.”
3. “I have no one to turn to for help.”
4. “The abuse is my fault.”
5. “The result of speaking up will be worse than keeping quiet. I might end up in a nursing home.”
6. “I’m so ashamed and embarrassed that my own family member is hurting me.”
7. “I’m afraid if I tell anyone what is going on, the person hurting me will get back at me.”
8. “The person hurting me needs help and it seems like nobody can assist him/her.”

Warning signs: Does someone you know...

1. Put you down, make you feel worthless, useless, or a burden, because of your age?
2. Threaten to hurt you or someone you love or a pet?
3. Try to control what you do and who you see?
4. Isolate you?
5. Control your money or your property?
6. Refuse to provide you with the basic necessities such as food, medicine?
7. Prevent you from obtaining medical care or home care services?
8. Touch you in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable?
9. Push, shove or hit you on more than one occasion?

While one sign does not necessarily indicate abuse, some tell-tale signs that there could be a problem are:

- Bruises, pressure marks, broken bones, abrasions, and burns may be an indication of physical abuse, neglect, or mistreatment.
- Unexplained withdrawal from normal activities, a sudden change in alertness, and unusual depression may be indicators of emotional abuse.
- Bruises around the breasts or genital area can occur from sexual abuse.
- Sudden changes in financial situations may be the result of exploitation.
- Bedsores, unattended medical needs, poor hygiene, and unusual weight loss are indicators of possible neglect.
- Behavior such as belittling, threats, and other uses of power and control are indicators of verbal or emotional abuse.
- Strained or tense relationships, frequent arguments between the caregiver and elderly person are also signs.

Most importantly, be alert. The suffering is often in silence. If you notice changes in a elder’s personality or behavior, you should start to question what is going on.

HELP IS OUT THERE

If you or someone you care about needs help:

1. **Remember that safety is a priority.**
Call 911 for help if you feel intimidated or before a situation at home becomes too unmanageable or dangerous.
2. **Keep talking to people until you get the help you need.** There are many social service organizations, hospitals, government organizations and hotlines that can be very helpful in providing support, information and assistance.
3. **Advocates are available** who will help you develop a safety plan and provide tips that would make sure you feel safe in your own home.
4. **An Order of Protection (OP)** can order your abuser to stop hurting or threatening you, or to stay away from you, your home or your work place. Family court can assist you without an arrest. Criminal court can provide an OP after an arrest takes place. In some cases, mental health or substance abuse treatment can be mandated.
5. **The police can help you enforce an order of protection and maintain your safety in your home.**
6. **Accept help.** Others care about you. You are not alone.
7. **There are also services available to help the person who is hurting you.**

FOR PROFESSIONALS

Resources are available to help you help others:

1. **Call 311** for more information about available services.
2. **Go to NYCEAC.com, NYCEAN.net or CSCS-NY.org** for more information about case consultations, training opportunities, coordinated community responses and more.
3. **Call 911** in case of an emergency.