

# Examples of Elder Abuse

## Financial

The illegal or improper use of a person's finances or property by another person with whom they have a relationship implying trust.

- Selling the older adult's home and keeping the money
- Pressuring them to hand over anticipated inheritance
- Pressuring them for gifts or loan of money
- Taking money from the older adults bank account  
Power of Attorney, not acting in best interests of older person

## Psychological

Psychological abuse may be verbal or non-verbal and is usually characterised by a pattern of behaviour repeated over time and intended to maintain a hold of fear over the victim.

- Threatened with physical harm or abandonment
- Pressured, intimidated, and bullied and yelled at
- Spoken to using threatening or obscene language
- Being repeatedly told that they have dementia
- Ridiculed and laughed at
- Preventing older adult from engaging in desired religious or cultural practices

## Social

Is used to isolate older people and exclude them from communal activities

Social isolation makes older people more vulnerable to other forms of abuse

- Limiting or preventing contact with friends or family
- Arranging for older adult's phone to be disconnected without the older adults consent
- Withholding the older adult's mail

## Sexual

Sexually abusive or exploitative behaviour

- Sexual assault
- Touching an older person inappropriately
- Showing interest in and making inappropriate comments about an older person's body

## Physical

Inflicting physical pain or injury or using physical coercion.

- Older adult being handled too roughly
- Arm gripped until painful and bruised  
Not preventing, or speaking out against, physical abuse or threats to an older person

## Neglect

Failure of a carer to provide the necessities of life to a person for whom they are caring. This may be intentional or unintentional.

- Failure to provide adequate food and water
- Refusing to provide promised support if older adult won't "do as they are told"
- Older adult prevented from accessing services