

Examples of Elder Abuse

<p>SOCIAL - preventing a person from having contact with relatives, friends, service providers and other people or restricting the person's activities, thereby increasing their sense of isolation.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sadness or grief at loss of important relationships ▪ Lack of self esteem ▪ Appearing ashamed ▪ Constant or close presence of the abuser – gate keeping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preventing contact with family and friends, or denying access to the phone or computer ▪ Withholding mail ▪ Preventing an older person from engaging in religious or cultural practices ▪ Moving an older person far away family or friends
<p>NEGLECT - (either intentional or unintentional) -the failure of a carer or responsible person to provide the necessities of life to an older person.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inadequate clothing, complaints of being cold or too hot ▪ Poor personal hygiene, unkempt appearance ▪ Lack of medical or dental care, or injuries that have not been properly cared for ▪ Absence of required aids ▪ Exposure to unsafe, unhealthy, and /or unsanitary conditions ▪ Unexplained weight loss, dehydration, poor skin integrity, malnutrition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Failure to provide basic needs, i.e. food, adequate or clean clothing, heating, medicines ▪ Under- or over-medication ▪ Exposure to danger or lack of supervision, such as leaving the older person in an unsafe place or in isolation ▪ An overly attentive carer in the company of others ▪ Refusal to permit others to provide appropriate care
<p>FINANCIAL - the illegal or improper use of an older person's property or finances.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unexplained disappearance of belongings ▪ Unexplained or inability to pay bills ▪ Significant bank withdrawals and/or changes to wills ▪ Inability of an older person to access bank accounts or statements ▪ Stockpiling of unpaid bills or an empty fridge ▪ Disparity between living conditions and money ▪ No money to pay for essentials for the home including food, clothing, and utilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Threatening, coercing re: assets or wills ▪ Taking control of the older person's finances against their wishes and denying access to their own money ▪ Abusing Powers of Attorney ▪ Stealing goods, e.g. jewellery, credit cards, cash, food, and other possessions ▪ Unauthorised use of banking and financial documents ▪ The recent addition of a signature on a bank account
<p>PHYSICAL - involves the infliction of physical pain or injury, or physical coercion.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Internal or external injuries (sprains, dislocations and fractures, pressure sores, unexplained bruises or marks on different areas of the body, pain on touching) ▪ Broken or healing bones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discrepancies between injury and explanation of how it happened ▪ Unexplained broken or healing bones ▪ Lacerations to mouth, lips, gums, eyes or ears, missing teeth and/or eye injuries

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lacerations to mouth, lips, gums, eyes or ears, missing teeth and/or eye injuries ▪ Evidence of hitting, punching, shaking, pulling, ▪ i.e. bruises, lacerations, choke marks, hair loss or welts ▪ Burns, e.g. rope, cigarettes, matches, iron, and/or hot water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evidence of hitting, punching, shaking, pulling, ▪ i.e. bruises, lacerations, choke marks, hair loss or welts ▪ Burns, e.g. rope, cigarettes, matches, iron, and/or hot water ▪ Being seen by different doctors and hospitals
<p>SEXUAL - a broad term used to describe a range of sexual acts where the victim's consent has not been obtained or where consent has been obtained through coercion.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unexplained STD, UTIs or incontinence (bladder or bowel) ▪ Injury and trauma, e.g. scratches, bruises etc. to face, neck, chest, abdomen, thighs or buttocks ▪ Trauma including bleeding around the genitals, chest, rectum or mouth ▪ Torn or bloody underclothing or bedding ▪ Human bite marks ▪ Anxiety around the perpetrator and other psychological symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Non-consensual sexual contact, language or exploitative behaviour ▪ Rape and sexual assault ▪ Cleaning or treating the older person's genital area roughly or inappropriately ▪ Enforced nudity of an older person against their consent
<p>PSYCHOLOGICAL - is the infliction of mental stress involving actions and threats that cause isolation, fear of violence, deprivation and feelings of shame and powerlessness.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resignation, shame ▪ Depression, tearfulness ▪ Confusion, agitation and social isolation ▪ Feelings of helplessness ▪ Unexplained paranoia or excessive fear ▪ Disrupted appetite or sleep patterns, such as insomnia ▪ Unusual passivity or anger ▪ Sadness or grief at the loss of interactions with others ▪ Withdrawal or listlessness due to people not visiting ▪ Changes in levels of self-esteem ▪ Worry or anxiety after a visit by specific person/people ▪ Appearing ashamed ▪ Social isolation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pressuring, intimidating or bullying ▪ Name calling, and verbal abuse ▪ Treating an older person like a child ▪ Threatening to harm the person, other people or pets ▪ Engaging in emotional blackmail such as threatening to withdraw access to grandchildren, family, friends, services, telephone or placement in an aged care facility

