Elder abuse is an intentional act or failure to act that causes or creates a risk of harm to an older adult. Common types of elder mistreatment include physical, sexual, emotional/psychological, or financial abuse, neglect, or self-neglect. Elder abuse impacts people of all ages, identities, and backgrounds.

### What are the signs of mistreatment?

#### Physical Signs
- Dehydration or unusual weight loss
- Missing daily living aids (glasses, walker, or medication)
- Unexplained injuries, bruises, cuts, or sores
- Torn, stained, or bloody underclothing
- Unattended medical needs
- Unexplained sexually transmitted diseases

#### Emotional & Behavioral Signs
- Increased fear or anxiety
- Isolation from friends or family
- Unusual changes in behavior or sleep
- Withdrawal from normal activities

#### Financial Signs
- Fraudulent signatures on financial documents
- Unusual or sudden changes in spending patterns
- Unpaid bills

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Report known or suspected abuse as soon as possible:

Programs such as Adult Protective Services (APS) and the Long-Term Care Ombudsmen are here to help. For reporting numbers, contact Eldercare Locator at 1-800-677-1116 or visit [www.eldercare.acl.gov](http://www.eldercare.acl.gov).

In cases of urgent danger, call 911 or the local police or sheriff.

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Don’t stand by, stand up to elder abuse.
You can make a difference.

This document was completed for the National Center on Elder Abuse and is supported in part by a grant (90ABRC0002) from the Administration on Aging, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Grantees carrying out projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Therefore, points of view or opinions do not necessarily represent official Administration on Aging or HHS policy. LAST DOCUMENT REVISION: NOV 2023