

## Recognizing Elder Abuse

- Anger toward the dependent person
- Caregiver blames the elder
- Inappropriate display of affection by the caregivers
- Social Isolation
- Caregiver does not comply with service providers in planning for care
- Inappropriate or unwarranted defensiveness by the caregiver
- Aggressive behavior by the caregiver towards the elder

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### Facts

- 1 in 6 people aged 60 and older experience elder abuse
- 2 in 3 staff members at nursing homes and long-term care facilities have committed abuse.
- Elder abuse is predicted to increase as many countries are experiencing rapidly ageing population where the population of people 60 years and older will more than double.

We believe all people have a right to a life free of physical violence, sexual assault, verbal/emotional abuse, and restriction of personal liberties.

We believe that violence is a societal problem, a learned behavior, and with intervention and education, the cycle of violence can be broken.

We believe in the worth, dignity, and uniqueness of the individual, and we support these values through education, personal growth, self-reliance, and self-determination.

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*This pamphlet is sponsored in part by the Office of the Attorney General: Division of Victim Services.*

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## Elder Abuse and Neglect

**Toll Free 24-Hour Crisis Line**  
**1-877-864-9688**

Cody Office  
1220 13th St.  
Cody, WY  
307-272-4754

Powell Office\*  
335 N. Gilbert Street  
Powell, WY  
307-754-7959  
Fax: 307-754-4448

\*Powell office is ADA accessible



## **Elder Abuse**

Is an intentional act, or failure to act, by a caregiver or another person in a relationship involving an expectation of trust that causes or creates a risk of harm to an older adult. The abuse occurs at the hands of a caregiver or a person the elder trusts.

### **Types of Elder Abuse:**

#### **Physical Abuse**

Any physical pain or injury which is willfully inflicted on an elder by a person who has care or custody of that elder. This includes, but is not limited to, direct beatings, sexual assault, unreasonable restraint and prolonged deprivation of food or water.

Indicators:

- Bruises
- Welts
- Lacerations
- Poor skin condition
- Loss of weight
- Dehydration/malnourished without illness-related cause
- Burns
- Soiled clothing or bed

#### **Financial Abuse**

Any theft or misuse of an elder's money or property by a person a position of trust with an elder.

Indicators:

- Numerous unpaid bills or overdue rent when someone is supposed to be paying the bills for a dependent elder
- Missing personal belongings such as art, silverware, or jewelry
- Power of attorney given or recent changes or creation of will when the person is incapable of making such decisions

#### **Neglect**

The failure of any person having the care or custody of an elder to provide that degree of care which a reasonable person in a like position would provide.

Indicators:

- Dirt
- Fecal/Urine Smell
- Rashes
- Sores
- Inadequate clothing

#### **Self-Neglect**

Failure to provide for self through inattention or dissipation. The identification of this type of case depends on assessing the elder's ability to choose a lifestyle versus a recent change in the elder's ability to manage.

Indicators:

- Inability to manage finances
- Inability to accomplish activities

- Inability to manage shopping
- Suicidal acts
- Confusion

#### **Psychological/Emotional Abuse**

The willful infliction of mental suffering by a person in a position of trust with an elder. Examples are verbal assaults, threats, humiliation, and intimidation.

Indicators:

- Helplessness
- Fear
- Withdrawal
- Depression
- Denial
- Anger

#### **Abandonment**

The desertion or willful forsaking of an elder by any person having the care and custody of that elder under circumstances in which a reasonable person would continue to provide care of custody.

**If you suspect elder abuse contact The Department of Family Services, Crisis Intervention Services, and/or Law Enforcement to see how you can stop the abuse.**