

COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE

ELDER ABUSE



SAN DIEGO COUNTY



A MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT ATTORNEY **SUMMER STEPHAN**

Unfortunately, it's just a fact that there are people in the world who prey upon senior citizens. They steal their money or property. They hurt them physically and emotionally. The DA's Elder Abuse Unit, which is part of our Family Protection Division, is here to help. We serve as a lightning rod and a key community resource when confronting these crimes. Not only do we prosecute elder abuse and provide support for victims, we also work to educate seniors and those around them. This booklet has important information on recognizing the signs of elder abuse and how to report it. I hope you'll find it helpful and will share it with anyone who may come into contact with an older relative or friend. Together we can stop elder abuse and make sure our seniors are protected.

Summer Stephan
District Attorney **Summer Stephan**

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IF YOU SUSPECT ABUSE

Call Adult Protective Services, HHS

(24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

1-800-339-4661 (County of San Diego)

Long-Term Care Ombudsman call **1-800-640-4661**

Call the Police Department Where the Abuse Occurred

Call the San Diego County District Attorney's Office

The Family Protection Division prosecutes most cases of elder abuse.

Call **1-619-531-4300**



ABUSE IN LATER LIFE WHEEL



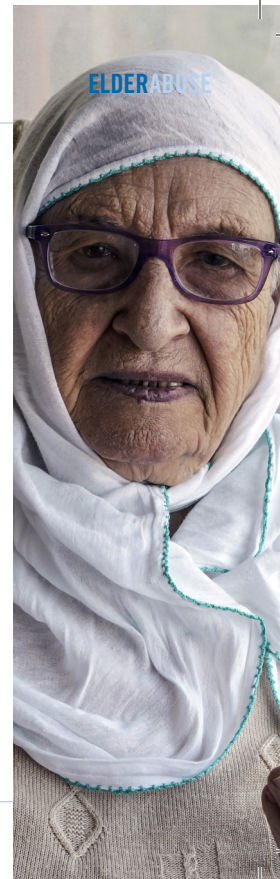
Created by the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL), a project of the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WCADV)

ABUSE & NEGLECT

Physical: Direct beatings, lack of medical care or overmedication, or sexual exploitation.

Financial: Theft, misuse of funds or property, extortion, duress, or fraud.

Neglect: Denial of food, clothing, shelter, health care or unable to provide basic needs.



ABUSE & NEGLECT

Mental suffering: Verbal assaults, threats, or fear.

Abandonment: Desertion by anyone having responsibility for care.

Isolation: Preventing a dependent adult from receiving mail, telephone calls, or visitors.

Self-neglect: Malnutrition, being unkempt, unmet medical needs, or unpaid bills.

WARNING SIGNS

- ▶ Bruising on areas other than extremities such as on the trunk, neck or head
- ▶ Cannot tell you how they got their bruise or injury
- ▶ Bruises or injuries that are inconsistent with the history provided by the victim
- ▶ Sudden changes in behavior by the victim
- ▶ Recent confusion or disorientation, hesitation by the victim to talk openly
- ▶ The caregiver is angry, indifferent or aggressive



WARNING SIGNS

- ▶ Another person's name added to the elder's bank account or important documents, or frequent checks written from their account made out to CASH
- ▶ The caregiver has a history of substance addiction, mental health challenges, criminal behavior or family violence
- ▶ Recent changes in financial arrangements, missing belongings, papers or credit cards
- ▶ Lack of hygiene when being cared for, or lack of necessities such as food, water, utilities, medications and medical care

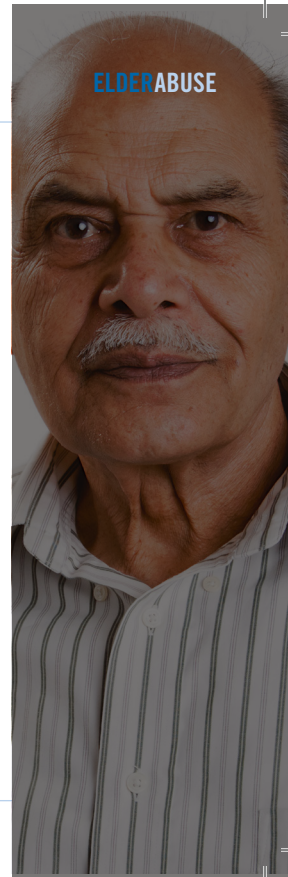
RISK FACTORS

RISK FACTORS FOR BEING A VICTIM

may include dementia, isolation such as from being homebound or homeless, lack of social support, mental health challenges, and substance addiction.

RISK FACTORS FOR BEING A PERPETRATOR

may include dependence on the victim for financial or other forms of support such as caregiving, history of abuse, neglect or exploitation, mental health challenges, and substance addiction.



SUSPICIOUS INJURIES

Bruises in older adults are often larger (about 2 inches or larger). More often bruises from abuse are inflicted in the head, back and arms.



Note: The color of the bruise may not indicate its age in older adults.

COGNITIVE ASSESSMENT

The County of San Diego Adult Protective Services, found that in about one third of elder abuse cases, the victims had some type of cognitive impairment.

Red flags for memory problems:

- ▶ Vague answers
- ▶ Paranoia
- ▶ Hallucinations
- ▶ Looking toward others for answers
- ▶ Confusion with time or place
- ▶ Avoiding questions
- ▶ Incorrect answers
- ▶ Changes in mood or personality
- ▶ Repetitive questions/comments
- ▶ Agitation

Source: Abuse in Later Life Anoka County Law Enforcement Legal and Community Resource Guide



CIVIL HARRASSMENT ORDERS

Victims of elder and dependent adult abuse may file for a Civil Restraining Order at no cost.

There are no cost clinics available to assist you in the application process.

Visit www.sdcourt.ca.gov and select the “Civil” tab and then select “Harassment Restraining Order.”

RESOURCES

Aging and Independence Services (AIS), HHSA	1-800-339-4661
Adult Protective Services	1-800-339-4661
Public Administrator	1-858-694-3500
Public Guardian	1-858-694-3500
Long-Term Care Ombudsman	1-800-640-4661
Senior Mental Health Team	1-800-510-2020
Public Conservator	1-858-694-3500
San Diego District Attorney's Office, Victim Assistance	1-619-531-4041
San Diego City Attorney's Office, Victim Assistance	1-619-236-6220
Office of Attorney General, CA DOJ	1-800-952-5225
The George G. Glenner Alzheimer's Family Centers, Inc.	1-619-543-4704
Alzheimer's San Diego	1-858-492-4400

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY **VICTIM ASSISTANCE**

San Diego – Hall of Justice

330 W. Broadway San Diego, CA 92101

(619) 531-4041

North County Branch – Vista Courthouse

325 S. Melrose Dr., Ste. 5000, Vista, CA 92083

(760) 806-4079

East County Branch – El Cajon Courthouse

250 Main St., 5th Floor, El Cajon, CA 92020

(619) 441-4538

South Bay Branch

333 H St., Ste. 4000, Chula Vista, CA 91910

(619) 498-5650

Contact

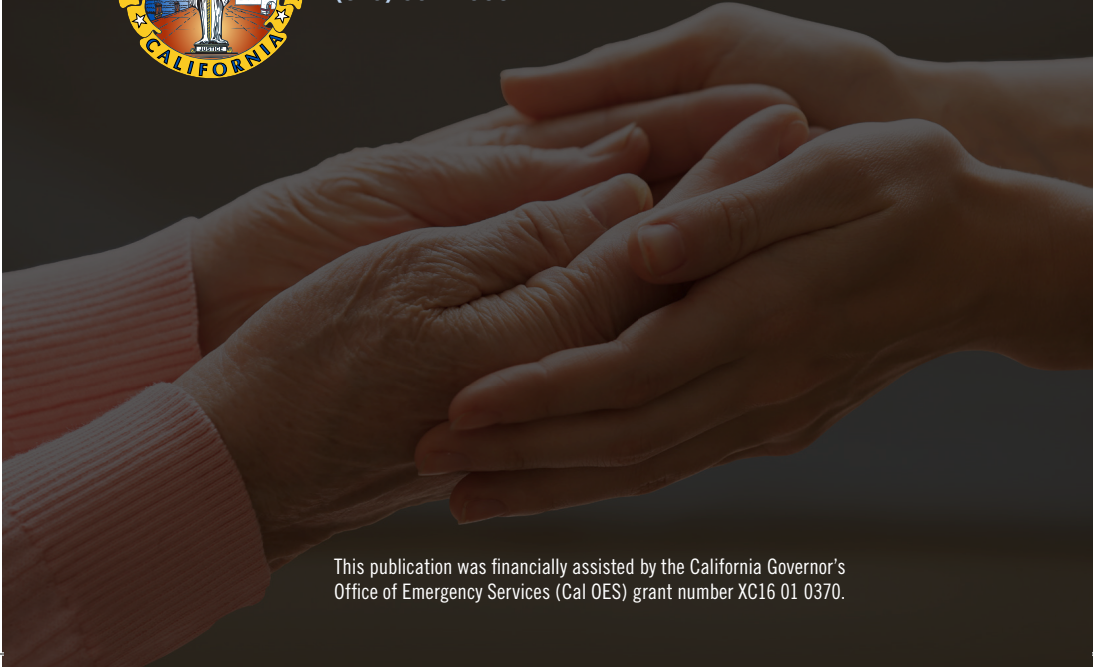
San Diego County District Attorney's Office

Family Protection Division

(619) 531-4300



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