

for Baltimore County Providers Council
10/24/23



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Spotting & Responding to Elder Abuse

410-234-0030
www.chanabaltimore.org



AGENDA



- What Elder Abuse Is & Its Prevalence
- Cause of Elder Abuse & How It Happens
- Vetting Care Provider Staff
- Screening & Safety Planning
- Reporting Elder Abuse
- Role of CHANA vs APS
- Questions ??

What is Elder Abuse and Its Prevalence



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What Elder Abuse *IS NOT*

Anger Control Problem

Mental Illness

Substance Use Problem

Immaturity

Inherited

Lack of Manners

Response to a Difficult Situation

Caregiver Stress

What is Elder Abuse?



MD: Section 14-101 of the Family Law Article, Annotated Code of MD:

“the sustaining of any physical injury by a vulnerable adult as a result of cruel or inhumane treatment or as a result of a malicious act by any person.”

WHO:

A single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, by a caregiver or other person, in a relationship where there is an ***expectation of trust*** that causes or creates a risk of harm or distress to an older person.

IT IS INTENTIONAL!



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TRUE or FALSE?



You can always tell who
is being abused.

TRUE or FALSE?



You can
always tell
who is abusing.



Expectation of Trust

66% of elder abuse is by Family Members:

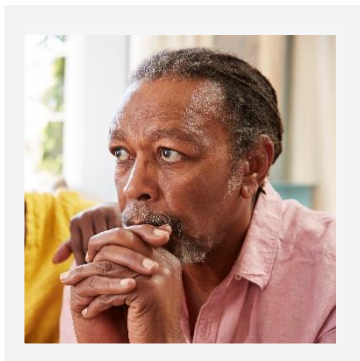
- 47% = Adult Children & Grandchildren
- 19% = Spouses

1 in 10
"community dwelling"
people age 60+

42% of
people killed
age 60+
murdered by
family
members

24% of
people killed
age 60+
murdered by
spouses

Types of Elder Abuse



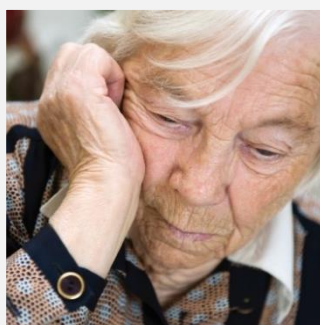
Verbal/Emotional

Emotional pain through verbal assaults, threats, intimidation, humiliation, harassment or isolation.



Physical

Intentional use of force that causes physical discomfort pain, injury or impairment; isolation ; inappropriate use of restraints.



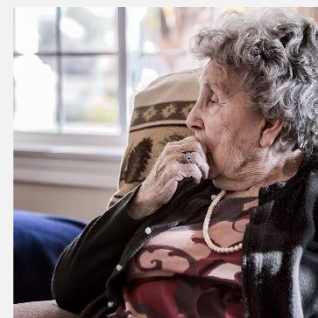
Sexual

Non-consensual sexual contact of any kind including witnessing sexual activity.



Financial

Wrongfully taking or using an older adult's funds or property through theft, scams, fraud, force or predatory lending.



Neglect

Failure to meet the needs of an older adult who is under care, including not providing essentials such as food, water, shelter, clothing or personal hygiene.

Polyvictimization



❑ Experiencing multiple victimizations

- e.g., Financial and physical, rather than solely financial

❑ Multiple abusers

- Includes victimizations over lifetime
- Changes the impact and likelihood of further victimizations

Neglect - 58.5%
Physical - 15.7%
Financial Exploitation
- 12.3%
Verbal/Emotional -
7.3%
Sexual - .04%
All other types- 5.1%

What is Neglect?

Failure to fulfill a caretaking obligation resulting in a wide-range of problems including bedsores, dehydration, poor hygiene, poor nutritional status - and can lead to death.

Can be:

- **Active (Intentional neglect)**, usually motivated by greed or other forms of self-interest, or
- **Passive (Unintentional neglect)**, usually based on factors such as ignorance or denial that an older person needs as much care as he or she does, or due to the provider's lack of time, emotional resources or physical or cognitive ability to provide the needed care, often resulting in reckless endangerment or worse.



Intentional and Unintentional neglect can co-occur.

Neglect

Warning Signs

- Inappropriate or dirty clothing
- Being left dirty and unbathed
- Dehydration; malnutrition
- Untreated medical conditions (e.g. bed sores)
- Hazardous/unsafe/unsanitary/unclean living conditions (e.g. hoarding, improper wiring, no heat, no running water, fleas, lice, soiled bedding, fecal/urine smell)
- Lack of or inconsistent medical care
- Lack of social contact
- Lack of or poor condition of dentures, hearing aids, eyeglasses, other devices
- Desertion of the elder at a public place.
- **Older Adult tells you**



Physical Abuse

Warning Signs

- Unexplained injuries like bruises, welts, burns, bites, new scars, broken bones, sprains, or dislocations
- Untreated medical problems
- Signs of being restrained, like rope marks on wrists
- Missing hair
- Damaged or missing eyeglasses, hearing aids, dentures
- Visits to different doctors/hospitals
- Weight loss
- Clothing out of season covering parts of body
- Caregiver refuses to let you see the older adults without them being present
- **Older Adult tells you!**



Financial Exploitation

Warning Signs

- Standard of living not in keeping with income or assets
- Sudden changes in financial situation
- Irregular spending and withdrawals from bank accounts; withdrawals despite penalties
- Forged signatures on financial documents (wills, Power of Attorney, titles, insurance policies)
- Addition of authorized users to bank accounts, credit or debit cards
- Coercion used in signing of wills or releasing property
- Someone else limiting an older person's access to his or her own accounts
- Identity documents missing
- Checks made out to cash
- Overdue or unpaid bills, lack of awareness of expenses, or lack of medical care when person should have enough money to pay (e.g. utilities turned off)
- A new BFF who receives gifts from the elder
- **Older Adult tells you!**



Verbal/Emotional/Psychological

Warning Signs

- Unexplained withdrawal from normal activities, sudden change in alertness, or unexpected depression
- Cowering
- Abuser discredits the elder, making them look incapable
- Signs of agitation like rocking, sucking, or mumbling to themselves
- Physical signs of isolation (no phone or visitors)
- Not allowing privacy
- Others speaking on person's behalf
- **Older Adult tells you**



More Signs of Emotional Abuse

More Blatant

- Humiliation, threatening, belittling, and degradation
- Discounting and negating
- Domination and control
- Judging and criticizing
- Accusing and blaming
- Trivial and unreasonable demands or expectations
- Emotional distancing and the "silent treatment"

More Subtle

- Withholding of attention or affection
- Disapproving, dismissive, contemptuous, or condescending looks, comments, and behavior
- Sulking and pouting
- Subtle threats of abandonment (either physical or emotional)





Sexual Abuse

Warning Signs

- Pain, bruising or bleeding in genital or breast area
- Unexplained vaginal or anal bleeding
- Torn, stained or bloody underclothing
- Sexually transmitted disease
- Recent depression
- Recent incontinence
- Change in client's mood or behaviors
- **Older Adult tells you!**

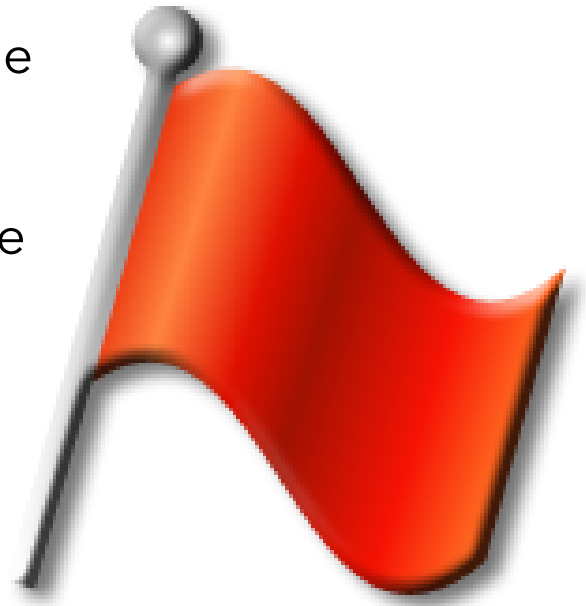
Family Caregiver Abuse

Indicators

- Is verbally abusive to the older adult, but charming to everyone else.
- Frequently appears overwhelmed, burdened, frustrated or angry.
- Says the victim is “difficult” and may try and convince others that the elder is incompetent.
- Clearly fails to provide needed care.
- Is overly attentive to the older adult which may mask controlling behaviors.
- Controls the older adult’s activities and isolates them from others.
- Talks about the older adult as if she/he was not there.

MORE Indicators

- Older adult and caregiver provide conflicting accounts of events.
- Caregiver interrupts or speaks for the older adult.
- Older adult appears fearful or hostile to the caregiver.
- Caregiver appears unengaged or inattentive to the older adult.
- Substance abuse of older adult and/or caregiver.
- Takes older adult to multiple physicians or hospitals for the same types of treatment.





IMPACT

1 of 4 women
1 of 7 men

- Decreased self-esteem
- Isolation
- Ambivalence
- Anger, anxiety and depressive symptoms
- Learned helplessness
- Alienation from others
- Substance Abuse
- Post Traumatic Stress DO
- Loneliness
- Hopelessness

Cause of Elder Abuse & How It Happens



ABUSE
of an Older Adult
IS ABOUT



**POWER
&
CONTROL**

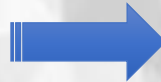


UNDUE INFLUENCE

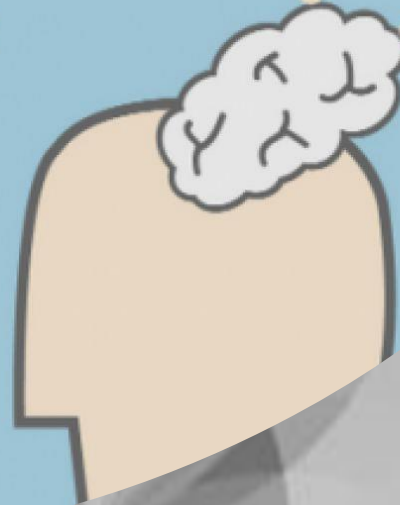
Excessive persuasion that causes a vulnerable adult, or an individual at least 68 years old, to act, or refrain from acting, by overcoming that person's free will, and that results in inequity.



Grooming



The Tactics of Gaslighting



Gaslighting

Vetting Care Provider Staff



Maryland Judiciary Case Search Disclaimer

<https://casesearch.courts.state.md.us/casesearch/>

This website provides public access to the case records of the Maryland Judiciary.

Access to these records is governed by the Maryland Rules on Access to Court Records.

Acceptance of the following agreement [*and two other agreements*] is required to continue:

The information displayed on this Web Site is generated from computerized records in the custody and control of the Maryland Judiciary and is intended for informational purposes only. The Judiciary provides this information as a public service and makes no warranties, either expressed or implied, regarding its accuracy, reliability, currency, completeness, or suitability for any particular purpose. PLEASE NOTE that this information is NOT intended to be used as an authoritative public record or as a legal document and shall have no legal force or effect.



Maryland Judiciary Case Search Criteria



CaseSearch will only display results for cases that exist and for which the case's existence or a person's identity is not protected information under the Maryland Rules on Access to Court Records.

Search for [Circuit Court Judgments and Liens](#)

Search Criteria

Select Court Type. (Default is Trial)

☒ Trial ☐ Appellate

Select the appropriate radio button to search cases by Person or Company. (Default is Person)

☐ Company ☒ Person

Name: Last First Middle

Party Type

Default All

Case Type

☒ All Case Types ☐ Civil ☐ Criminal ☐ Traffic ☐ Civil Citation

Court System

☒ Both Circuit and District Courts ☐ Circuit Court Only ☐ District Court Only

County

Default All

Filing Date

Format:
MM/DD/YYYY

Range (from/to) to

Exact Date:

Search

Reset

Type here to search



50°F 10/10/20

Property of:

Maryland Judiciary Case Search Results

[Search Again](#)

Last Name: **Fields** | First Name: **John**

475 items found, displaying 1 to 25.

[First/Prev] 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 [Next/Last]

Note: Initial sort is by Last Name. Sorting by other columns is available by clicking on the desired column header. Secondary sort is always Case Number. (0.026 seconds)

Case Number	Name	Date of Birth	Party Type	Court	Case Type	Case Status	Filing Date	Case Caption
03C05008907	Fields, John A Sr.		Plaintiff	Baltimore County Circuit Court	CJ	Closed / Inactive	09/27/1995	In The Matter Of James Vincent Ballard
080400182431991	Fields, John A Sr		Defendant	Towson District Court	TORT	Closed	08/15/1991	JENKINS, ELINORE N vs FIELDS, JOHN A SR et al
00007686A0	Fields, John A		Other	Glen Burnie District Court	CRSCA	Closed	10/18/1985	
00007919A2	Fields, John A		Other	Glen Burnie District Court	CRSCA	Closed	02/01/1987	
00006012A4	Fields, John A		Other	Glen Burnie District Court	CRSCA	Closed	07/07/1987	
00600393H3	Fields, John A	08/1963	Defendant	Wicomico County District Court	CR	Closed	04/17/1985	
0V00024395	Fields, John A	08/1961	Defendant	Washington County District Court	CRSCA	Closed	11/03/2000	
21C01012111	Fields, John A		Defendant	Washington County Circuit Court	APA	Closed / Inactive	07/24/2001	Browning Ferris Industries, Inc, Et Al Vs John A Fields
SV00028775	Fields, John A	08/1961	AKA	Washington County District Court	CRSCA	Closed	10/28/2001	
SV00028775	Fields, John A	08/1961	Defendant	Washington County District Court	CRSCA	Closed	10/28/2001	
0087225253	Fields, John Allen	08/1963	Defendant	Dorchester County District Court	DNRC	Closed	06/05/1994	
WS89043	Fields, John Anthony	06/1972	Defendant	Annapolis District Court	TR	Active	05/31/2000	
1R00051615	Fields, John Austin Jr	04/1987	Defendant	Bel-Air District Court	CRSCA	Closed	04/03/2006	
0322089	Fields, John Austin	09/1969	Defendant	Bel-Air District Court	TR	Open	08/13/1987	
010100355272001	Fields, John C Jr		Defendant	Baltimore City District Court 5800 Wabash Ave	CONT	Closed	10/01/2001	
003FM23003273	Fields, John C. Jr.		Plaintiff	Baltimore County Circuit Court	CT	Open	06/06/2023	John Fields, Jr. vs. Cleo Cabamalan
T077578	Fields, John C	12/1975	Defendant	Rockville District Court	TR	Open	12/30/1996	
0079832960	Fields, John C		Plaintiff	Baltimore City District Court 1400 North Ave	CR	Closed	03/12/1990	

Type here to search

Property of:

Name: Fields, John A Sr.

Address: 8542 Harris Avenue

City: Baltimore State: MD Zip Code: 21234

Attorney(s) for the Petitioner

Name: WINDSOR, ALLEN G

Appearance Date: 09/27/1995

Removal Date: 03/02/2019

Address Line 1: HICKEY & WINDSOR PA

Address Line 2: PO BOX 186

City: EDGEWOOD State: MD Zip Code: 21040

Petitioner

Name: Fields, Virginia M

Address: 8542 Harris Avenue

City: Baltimore State: MD Zip Code: 21234

Attorney(s) for the Petitioner

Name: WINDSOR, ALLEN G

Appearance Date: 09/27/1995

Removal Date: 03/02/2019

Address Line 1: HICKEY & WINDSOR PA

Address Line 2: PO BOX 186

City: EDGEWOOD State: MD Zip Code: 21040

Judgment Information

Judgment Event Type: Case Disposition History

Judge:

Document Information

File Date: 09/27/1995

Document Name: Complaint

32

33

Slide



Type here to search



Screening & Safety Planning



Elder Abuse Screening

Asking Indirectly

- Do you feel safe where you live?
- Who prepares your food?
- Does someone help you with your medication?
- Who takes care of your checkbook?

Asking Directly

- Does anyone at home hurt you?
- Do they scold or threaten you?
- Touch you without your consent?
- Make you do things you don't want to do?
- Take anything that's yours without asking?
- Had you sign documents that you did not understand?
- Are you afraid of anyone at home?
- Are you alone a lot?
- Has anyone ever failed to help you take care of yourself when you needed help?

Adapted by Stanford Medicine from Ansell, P. & Breckman, R. (1988). *Elder mistreatment guidelines for health care professionals: Detection, assessment, and intervention*. New York: Mount Sinai/Victim Services Agency.

Safety Planning

1. Is older adult in immediate danger?
2. What action is necessary today?
3. Ask older adult who else knows or who else you can call?
4. How can you and older adult continue to safely communicate?

Reporting Elder Abuse

"First Call"



True or False

Most elder abuse victims tell a trusted person about their abuse.





“FIRST CALL”

Property of:



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FIRST CALL?

- ☐ Domestic Violence Program
- ☐ Criminal Justice System
- ☐ Family Member or Friend
- ☐ Aging Services
- ☐ Adult Protective Services
- ☐ Sexual violence Program
- ☐ No One
- ☐ Other



Reporting Barriers

- Fear – Embarrassment
- **They won't be believed**
- Love for an adult child; not wanting to see a child go to prison or live on the streets
- **Afraid they'll be put in a nursing home**
- May not be able to tell anyone because of cognition or illness
- **Unable to clearly communicate**
- No access to communication devices or ability to use them if they have them
- **Family values and commitment to spouse/partner and children**
- Belief that the perpetrator will change
- **Belief that if the abuser receives help the abuse will end**
- What will happen to them
- **What will happen to their abuser**
- Belief that it may be safer for a victim to remain with the abuser than to leave



HOW SURVIVORS MAY “TELL”

- “I don’t like my aide.”
- “No one talks to me.”
- “My children make decisions without me.”
- “I am too much of a bother.”
- “I don’t like my grandson’s friends.”
- “I am scared.”
- “He won’t let me sleep.”
- “He calls me names.”



WHERE TO REPORT

- DSS: ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES
- OFFICE of the STATE'S ATTORNEY
- MD DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
- OHCQ: OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE QUALITY
- LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT
- LOCAL OMBUDSMAN
- LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF AGING
- MD OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



Reporting Elder Abuse –Maryland Law

Md.Code Ann.,Fam.Law 14-302(a) and (d)

- a) Notwithstanding any law on privileged communications, **each health practitioner, police officer, or human service worker**
- Who contacts, examines, attends, or treats a **vulnerable adult**, and who has reason to believe that the alleged vulnerable adult has been subjected to abuse, neglect, self neglect, or exploitation **shall:**

(1) notify the local department...



You Must Report Abuse!



Reporting Elder Abuse –Maryland Law

What is APS?

- One of the Adult Services programs of the Department of Social Services, under the Maryland Department of Human Services.
- “Serves eligible adults age 18 and older who are unable to protect their own interests or are at risk of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation.”
- Program provides investigative services to protect the health, safety and welfare of **VULNERABLE** adults.

You Must Report Abuse!

- **Vulnerable adult** means an adult who lacks the physical or mental capacity to provide for their daily needs.
- **Capacity** - Identifying in functional terms, specific mental tasks and skills people retain and lose. Describing a person's capacity to perform a particular task such as remembering to pay the bills or calculating how much change they are due.



Not all abuse victims meet the criteria for investigation by APS—Vulnerability and Capacity

Role of CHANA vs APS





ELDER ABUSE SERVICES

since 2013

(410)
234-0030

Intervention ◦ Prevention ◦ Advocacy ◦ Consultation

- Crisis Response
- Danger Assessment
- Safety Planning
- Case & services coordination
- Shelter Options (voluntary, temporary)
- Trauma-responsive, crisis & supportive counseling
- Legal services, in partnership with MD Legal Aid
- Prevention Education to older adults, caregivers, clergy and other professionals
- Consultation to victims, family members, professionals and institutions
- **CHATLINE**
www.chanabaltimore.org

WHAT ELSE
YOU CAN DO



**No one should be a victim...
No one should be a perpetrator...
Above all else...**

NO ONE SHOULD BE A BYSTANDER!



THANK YOU!

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