

CONTROL WHEEL

FOR ELDER ABUSE



PHYSICAL ABUSE

Action causing physical discomfort, pain, injury, or impairment, isolation, or inappropriate use of restraints.

INDICATORS:

- Unexplained injuries, such as bruises burns, bites, missing hair, welts, dislocations, broken bones, etc.
- Broken eyeglasses
- Irregular or improper drug use
- Untreated medical problems
- Grab or rope marks on wrists
- Visits to different doctors and hospitals
- Out of season clothing covering the body
- Isolation of adult
- Irregular medical appointments
- Lack of food or poor condition of dentures, glasses or hearing aids
- Desertion of elder at a public place
- Unusual weight loss

VERBAL/ EMOTIONAL/ PSYCHOLOGICAL

When one person's actions or statements cause emotional anguish or fear, and wear down the other person's self-esteem, or dignity

INDICATORS:

- Threatening, belittling, or controlling behavior
- Unexplained withdrawal from normal activities, changes in alertness, or depression
- Signs of agitation like rocking, sucking, or mumbling
- Other's speak on behalf of the senior
- Restricted access- no privacy, phone, visitors, etc.
- Attempts to make the elder look incapable

NEGLECT

The intentional or unintentional failure to provide for the basic needs for someone

INDICATORS:

- Inappropriate or dirty clothing
- Poor Hygiene
- Dehydration
- Unsafe living conditions
- Lack of social contact
- Lack of or inconsistent medical care
- Lack of or poor condition of dentures, hearing aids, etc.
- Senior tells you

SEXUAL ABUSE

Unwanted sexual behavior including sexual comments, exploitive use of pornography, fondling, or sexual assault; any act against someone's will.

INDICATORS:

- Pain, bruising or bleeding in genital or chest area
- Sexually transmitted disease
- Recent depression
- Recent incontinence
- Change in client's mood or behaviors
- Torn, stained, or bloody underclothing

FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

Involves the misuse of a senior's funds or property through fraud, trickery, theft or force

INDICATORS:

- Sudden changes in financial situation, irregular spending or withdrawals
- Addition of authorized users to accounts
- Items or cash missing
- Suspicious changes in wills, power of attorney, titles, or policies
- Unpaid bills or lack of medical care when adult can afford it
- Financial activity the older adult could not do on their own (e.g., ATM withdrawal when bedridden)
- Checks made out to cash
- Gifts to family members, caregivers, or friends

REPORTING ABUSE

Under Maryland Law (MD Code Ann, Family Law 14-302 (a) and (d) health practitioners, police officers and human service workers who have a reason to believe that a vulnerable adult has been subjected to abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or exploitation are required to notify Adult Protective Services. **A vulnerable adult is a person over the age of 18 who lacks the physical or mental capacity to provide for their daily needs. If the person is not a vulnerable adult, you can call CHANA at 410-234-0030.