



HELP... AT HOME

Tips to Prevent Elder Abuse

Elder abuse can come in many different forms, ranging from neglect to physical harm. No matter what form it takes, it always ends with devastating results. Elder abuse usually takes place in the elder's own home. It is sometimes difficult to discern such abuse situations, so it is important for loved ones to make sure they stay in close contact to be able to see any potential indicators of elder abuse. If you notice any of these indicators, please report it.

Some of these indicators are:

- Cuts, scrapes or scratches
- Matching bruises on both arms
- Injuries that have not been treated
- Burns from cigarettes, appliances or hot water
- Inability to explain how they got hurt

Financial Abuse

An increasing problem that elders suffer from is financial abuse. To abusers, elders are often perceived as confused, weak and usually have a lot of assets saved up, making you a prime target for financial abuse. Abusers are usually someone who is very close to you, such as family members, caregivers or close friends. These abusers will often transfer money, change wills and write checks on behalf of you.

To prevent financial abuse, make sure that you understand your personal finances. If someone is with you a lot, keep a close eye on the relationship and make sure the new friend is not too interested in the your own finances. No one else should handle your money without your own written consent. If your need a caregiver, use an agency, whose caregivers are bonded and insured. An agency will frequently check and monitor its caregivers to assure that no abuse takes place.

Look for indicators for financial abuse:

- Unpaid bills or eviction notices
- Bank statements no longer go to the your home
- You have new "best friends"
- Caregiver expresses excessive concern about how your money is being spent
- You do not understand financial arrangements that have been made for him or her



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