

# Signs of Elder Abuse

More than half a million reports of elder abuse are reported to U.S. authorities each year, and millions more are believed to go unreported. The National Center on Elder Abuse says many cases of abuse go undetected because most people don't know what signs to look for. Some of the most common are below.

 <h2>Physical Abuse</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Unexplained signs of injury, such as bruises, welts, or scars</li><li>✓ Broken bones, sprains, or dislocations</li><li>✓ Report of drug overdose or apparent failure to take medication regularly (a prescription has more remaining than it should)</li><li>✓ Broken eyeglasses or frames</li><li>✓ Rope or restraint marks on wrists and/or ankles</li><li>✓ Caregiver's refusal to allow you to see the elder alone</li><li>✓ Dismissive attitude or statements about injuries</li><li>✓ Refusal to go to same emergency department for repeated injuries</li></ul>	 <h2>Emotional Abuse</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Threatening, belittling, or controlling caregiver behavior that you witness</li><li>✓ Behavior that mimics dementia, such as rocking or mumbling to oneself</li><li>✓ A senior who is uncommunicative and unresponsive</li><li>✓ A senior who is unreasonably fearful or suspicious</li><li>✓ A lack of interest in social contacts</li><li>✓ A senior who is evasive or isolated</li><li>✓ Unexplained or uncharacteristic changes in behavior</li><li>✓ Frequent arguments or tension between the caregiver and the elderly person</li></ul>
 <h2>Sexual Abuse</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Bruises around breasts, genitals or buttocks</li><li>✓ Unexplained venereal disease or genital infections</li><li>✓ Unexplained vaginal or anal bleeding</li><li>✓ Torn, stained, or bloody undergarments</li></ul>	 <h2>Self-Neglect or Neglect by Caregivers</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Unusual weight loss, malnutrition, dehydration</li><li>✓ Sunken eyes</li><li>✓ Untreated pressure bedsores</li><li>✓ Unsanitary living conditions: dirt, bugs, soiled bedding and clothes</li><li>✓ Lack of basic hygiene</li><li>✓ Unsuitable clothing or covering for the weather</li><li>✓ Unsafe living conditions: no heat or running water, faulty electrical wiring, or other fire hazards</li><li>✓ Desertion of the elder at a public place</li><li>✓ Lack of medical aids: no glasses, walker, teeth, hearing aid, or medications</li></ul>
 <h2>Financial Exploitation</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Significant withdrawals from the senior's accounts</li><li>✓ Sudden changes in the elder's financial condition</li><li>✓ Items or cash missing from the senior's household</li><li>✓ Suspicious changes in wills, power of attorney, titles, and policies</li><li>✓ Accounts that have been switched or have additional new users</li><li>✓ Unpaid bills or lack of medical care, although the elder has enough money to pay for them</li><li>✓ Financial activity the senior couldn't have conducted, such as ATM withdrawals when the senior is bedridden</li><li>✓ Unnecessary services, goods, or subscriptions</li><li>✓ Signatures on checks don't match the older person's signature</li></ul>	<p>If you suspect abuse or neglect of someone living in a nursing home, assisted living facility, or board and care home, contact a local Long-Term Care Ombudsman for more information by visiting <a href="http://theconsumervoice.org/get_help">http://theconsumervoice.org/get_help</a></p> <p>You can also contact Anapol Weiss for assistance. We can investigate the situation and answer your questions.</p> <p>Sources: American Psychological Association, HelpGuide.org, and National Center on Elder Abuse</p>