

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY REPORTING ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

This list describes typical behaviors of people who abuse others.

- Being violent, threatening to hurt you, using weapons, destroying your possessions.
- Name-calling, blaming, accusations, making humiliating remarks.
- Imposing guilt, intimidating, manipulating, threatening to withhold care or money.
- Rushing you to make decisions, telling you what to do.
- Lying, withholding information.
- Refusing to help you, not giving support and attention, acting disrespectfully.
- Blaming you for the abuse, not taking your protestations seriously.
- Refusing to let you handle your own money or affairs, not showing you documents, not giving you updates on your accounts.
- Abusing drugs or alcohol, making excuses for bad behavior.
- Isolating you from family members, friends and neighbors, not letting you have private conversations.

If you feel you are a victim of elder abuse or neglect, or if you worry about the welfare of an older adult, please **call the Lehigh County Office of Aging and Adult Services:**

610-782-3200

Mon. to Fri., 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

610-782-3034

Mon. to Fri. after 4:30 p.m. and all day Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

Or call the District Attorney's Office (610-782-3100) or your local police department:

Alburtis610-966-4778
Allentown610-437-7753
Bethlehem610-865-7187
Catasauqua610-264-0577
Coopersburg610-282-1444
Coplay610-262-2288
Emmaus610-967-3113
Fountain Hill610-691-5512

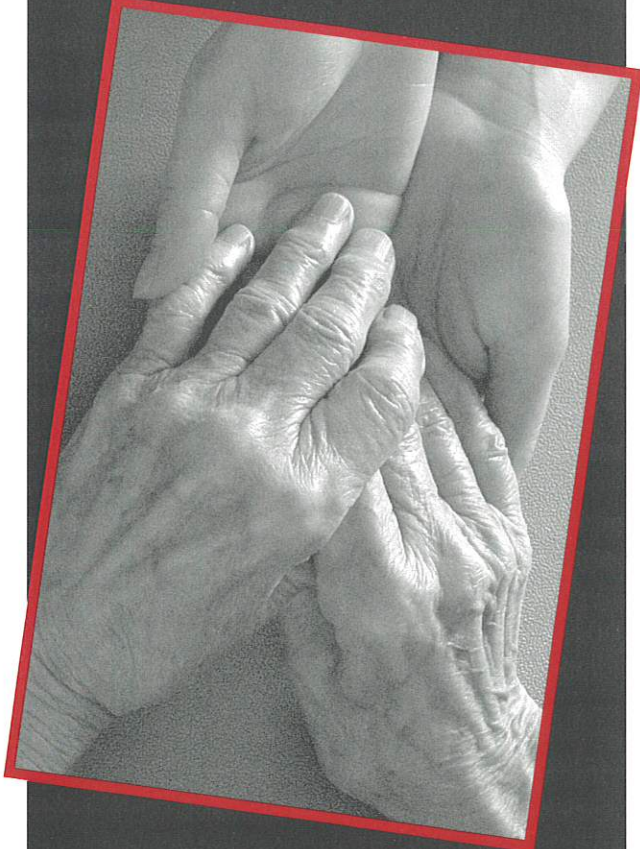
Lower Merion610-967-1249

Macungie610-966-2222
Salisbury Twp.610-797-1447
Slatington610-767-1846
S. Whitehall Twp.610-398-0337
State Police Bethlehem . .610-861-2026
State Police Fogelsville . .610-395-1438
Upper Macungie484-661-5911
Upper Saucon Twp.610-282-3064
Whitehall Twp.610-437-3042

For more information on elder abuse and national efforts to improve life for older Americans, go to <http://elderjusticenow.org>.

Provided by the Elder Abuse Task Force of the District Attorney of Lehigh County through use of forfeiture funds. Not printed at taxpayer expense.
James B. Martin, District Attorney

**There's
No Excuse
for**



**ELDER
ABUSE**

*'Age' is the acceptance of a term of years.
But maturity is the glory of years.*

Martha Graham

Everyone hopes for the "the glory of years." Regardless of age, each person is entitled to live those years with dignity, free from abuse.

The Lehigh County District Attorney's Elder Abuse Task Force and law enforcement officers want to help county residents recognize signs of elder abuse and neglect and encourage them to report cases of suspected abuse. By reporting and investigating cases, we can all help prevent abuse and provide protection for people who are vulnerable due to age and/or physical or mental limitations.

The Elder Abuse Task Force was created in 2007 and is made up of protective services personnel of the Lehigh County Office of Aging and Adult Services, members of the District Attorney's Office and the Temple University Institute on Protective Services, police, citizens and doctors.

The Task Force developed this pamphlet to help explain elder abuse and neglect, and to provide resources you can turn to for more information and help.

**BECAUSE THERE'S NO EXCUSE
FOR ELDER ABUSE.**

One in 9 Americans over the age of 60 have experienced elder abuse in the form of physical, psychological, verbal, financial, emotional and sexual abuse and neglect. Yet, many do not realize it. If they do, they do not know where to go for help.

Often the perpetrator is someone in the family. It is hard for victims to believe a relative would hurt them, take advantage of them or betray a trust. Some may be too embarrassed to report abuse or mistakenly believe nothing can be done.

Family relationships are complex and age can take a toll on everyone involved. Family conflicts and financial pressures can be involved.

Concerns in reporting abuse include:

- Will my son/daughter/wife/husband/caretaker be arrested?
- Will I have to testify against them in court?
- Will they go to jail?
- What will happen to me?
- What will happen to them?
- Will they get the help they need for drug and alcohol addiction, stress and anger management, mental health problems?
- Will I get support during and after the report?

Reports are treated on a case-by-case basis because each is as different as the people involved. When "caregivers" do harm instead of good, quick intervention is important. Victims at risk can be protected. Police can investigate reports, and prosecutors can build cases against suspected abusers. Most importantly, further harm can be prevented.

TYPES OF ELDER ABUSE

PHYSICAL: Inflicting injury, confining or restraining an elderly person, giving too little or too much medication.

PSYCHOLOGICAL: Threats, punishment, intimidation or humiliation that causes anxiety and depression.

SEXUAL: Assault, rape and sexual harassment.

FINANCIAL: Illegally using a person's property or doing so without authorization, stealing money and valuables, forcing someone to sign contracts or documents.

ABANDONMENT: Deserting an older adult.

NEGLECT: Denying food and health-related services, depriving someone of goods and services that are necessary to maintain physical or mental health.

SIGNS OF ELDER ABUSE

- Unexplained bruises
- Cuts
- Burns
- Fractures
- Depression
- Withdrawal
- Dehydration
- Malnutrition
- Poor hygiene
- Unpaid bills
- Large withdrawals from bank accounts