

Understand, Recognize and Act

Signs of Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation

Who is Affected?

All races, gender identity, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic class, ability, and sexual orientation.

All types of relationships- caregivers, spouses, family members including parent(s) and child(ren), friends, and neighbors.

Forms of Abuse

Physical:

Physically hurting someone.

Emotional:

Insults and/or criticism to make someone feel bad.

Psychological:

Threats and/or behaviors to control an individual or reduce support system.

Sexual:

Forcing someone to do something sexual against their will.

Financial:

Illegal taking, misuse or concealment of funds, properties or assets.

If you suspect abuse, neglect or exploitation,
call 855-444-3911

Adult Protective Services (APS) will investigate within 24 hours. APS protects the vulnerable by coordinating with mental health, public health, law enforcement, probate courts, the aging network, community groups and general public.

Signs of Abuse

Behavioral Changes

- Seems uneasy/jumpy with physical contact
- Fearful
- Depressed
- Confused
- Withdrawn

Isolation

- Increased time away from family and friends

Unexplained Injuries

- Bruises (various stages of healing)
- Burns
- Welts
- Scars

Appearance Change

- Dirty
- Hungry (significant weight loss)
- Dehydrated
- Over and/or under medicated
- Bed Sores and/or other preventable conditions

Other:

- Reports of being unattended
- Frequent urinary tract infections or yeast infections, sexually transmitted disease
- Recent change in banking or spending habits

Sources:

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/>
<https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/infographics/spotting-signs-elder-abuse>