

ABUSE IN LATER LIFE: A SILENT PROBLEM

Abuse in Later Life is a silent problem that deprives older adults of their dignity, health, and security. Every day an older person faces abuse by someone they know well and with whom they have an ongoing relationship. Almost 60% of abusers are a member of their family and two thirds of offenders are adult children and spouses. (National Council on Aging NCOA.org, 2021).

Intimate Partner Violence and Elder Abuse are Crimes. Abusers are apt to blame their victims, make excuses for their behavior, or deny wrongdoing. But their behavior can never be justified.

Education and support are vital to an older victim's safety. Secrecy is an abuser's best protection (National Center on Elder Abuse, www.ncea.aoa.gov, 2005).



AM I BEING HARMED?

Does someone...

- Hit, grab, or restrain you physically?
- Withhold your medications, medical care and food necessary to maintain your health?
- Look at or touch you sexually in ways that make you feel uncomfortable?
- Constantly put you down or call you names?
- Threaten to harm or is harming your pet or service animal?
- Isolate you from friends, family, grandchildren or prevent you from reading your mail or talking on the phone?
- Take your money, (e.g., Social Security checks, retirement pension or disability payments)?
- Destroy or steal your personal property or accessibility devices?
- Monitor your emails, text messages, or websites you visit?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, you have experienced abuse.

WHO CAN HELP ME?

What can I do if I am being abused?

Your safety and your well-being are important. No one deserves to be abused. It is not your fault and you are not alone. There are people in your community that will listen and believe you, help you plan for your safety and offer resources to support you.

Things you can do to receive help:

- If you are in immediate danger, call 9-1-1 and get medical care for any injuries.
- If you are planning to report the abuse by calling Adult Protective Services or leaving the abusive relationship, be aware that doing so may increase your risk for more serious abuse. Whether you decide to report or not report, stay or leave the relationship, for your own safety, call a hotline listed in this brochure to reach an advocate who can discuss options & alternatives.

IF YOU NEED HELP, PLEASE CALL:

National Domestic Violence Hotline

1.800.799.SAFE or 1.800.799.7233

1.800.787.3224 (TTY)

www.thehotline.org

National Sexual Assault Hotline

1.800.656.4673

www.rainn.org

Hotlines provide crisis intervention, information, referrals and safety planning. Hotlines are toll-free, confidential, and operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Se habla español

To report suspected abuse, neglect, exploitation, isolation and abandonment of vulnerable adults, call:

Statewide:

1.888.729.0571

Clark County Area:

702.486.6930

After Hours Contact:

Crisis Support Services of Nevada

1.800.273.8255 or Text CARE To 839863

Local Law Enforcement

Any police department or sheriff's office
If there is imminent danger involved, call 911

Learn More:

www.nevada211.org/aps

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Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (NCEDSV) is a statewide organization that was formed in 1980 to work toward the elimination of domestic and sexual violence against all persons and the empowerment of women and children.

NCEDSV helps Nevada's communities respond creatively and effectively to the needs of violence victims by providing information to service providers in the fields of domestic and sexual violence. In addition, NCEDSV provides education and advocacy to the general public and actively educates legislators on issues of concern to Nevada families.



Northern Nevada

Reno, NV

Southern Nevada

Henderson, NV

Mailing Address

250 South Rock Blvd., Suite 116

Reno, NV 89502

775.828.1115 NCEDSV.ORG



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Approximately one in 10 Americans aged 60+ have experienced some form of elder abuse. One study estimated that only one in 24 cases of abuse are reported to authorities.

Source: National Council on Aging (NCOA)