

Elder Justice: Abuse Prevention and Reporting

Courtesy of: Elder Abuse Task Force of Santa Clara County -- Current as of January 2018

Older adults are a valuable and vital part of our society, and deserve to be treated fairly and with dignity. The economic and social costs to elders and society are significant when older adults are isolated and disengaged, leaving them more at risk of financial, physical and emotional elder mistreatment, neglect and abuse.

Elder justice is important to all of us, and we can all help. Everyone is encouraged to report known or suspected elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect. Most professionals who work with older persons are required by law to do so.

Under current California law, professionals required to report elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect include care custodians, health practitioners, clergy members, officers and employees of financial institutions, Adult Protective Services staff, and law enforcement agencies, among others.

If you work with older or dependent adults and are required to report known or suspected abuse under California law, the following comprehensive training materials are designed for your use. They are also helpful for the general public to identify and report suspected abuse and neglect.

Please use these materials for training to prevent, identify, intervene, and report elder and dependent adult abuse and to find community resources. The intervention guidelines respectfully balance the older person's right to live independently with society's concern for protection. All of these actions help our elders and dependent adults stay safe and vibrant.

These materials were developed by the Elder Abuse Task Force of Santa Clara County to address the difficult and often complex issues involved in known or suspected elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect.

Call 9-1-1 immediately if you know someone who is in immediate danger of physical harm, abduction, or financial abuse.

Publications

The following training manual and video discuss elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect identification, assessment and intervention guidelines, and reporting procedures. These materials are intended for use by anyone required by California law to report known or suspected elder or dependent adult abuse as well as for use by the general community. The video uses an elder abuse scenario to provide a realistic case example. The brochure presents an introduction to elder abuse and neglect prevention.

- [*The Silent Cry: Elder Abuse Assessment and Reporting \(2008\)*](#), a video
- [*Elder Abuse – Guidelines for Professional Assessment and Reporting \(2018\)*](#), a training and resource manual
- [*Have You Heard of Elder Abuse?*](#), an introductory brochure

Reporting and Consultation

Call **9-1-1** immediately if you know someone who is in immediate danger of physical harm, abduction, or financial abuse.

For suspected elder and dependent adult abuse occurring IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY:

- **In the community (that is, abuse that is NOT occurring in an institutional facility)**, call Adult Protective Services **immediately** at 1-408-755-7690 or 1-408-975-4900 (or, within California, 1-800-414-2002) OR call your local police **immediately**. Then mail or fax abuse reports within two days to:

Adult Protective Services
333 West Julian St., 4th Floor
San Jose, CA 95110-2314
FAX 1-408-975-4910

- **In any licensed long term care facilities (including residential care for the elderly, adult residential, and skilled nursing facilities)**, see the specific reporting requirements in [Mandatory Reporting Requirements for Abuse in Long-Term Care Facilities \(2018\)](#).

IMPORTANT: *For physical abuse, some time periods were shortened and the reporting agencies were changed in 2013. The reporting procedures for suspected abuse in a State Mental Hospital or Developmental Center were NOT changed.*

For specific reporting instructions, refer to [Elder Abuse – Guidelines for Professional Assessment and Reporting \(2018\)](#).

For suspected elder and dependent adult abuse occurring OUTSIDE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY:

- **In any other county in California**, call:
 - 1-800-414-2002 for abuse occurring in the community (For a list of telephone numbers by county, go to <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/agedblinddisabled/PG2300.htm>.)
 - 1-800-231-4024 for abuse occurring in any licensed long term care facility
- **In states other than California**, call your local police or social services agency.

California Reporting Forms

The following California reporting forms are provided as a convenience for those who either are required by law or who want to file a report of known or suspected elder or dependent adult abuse to the appropriate agency:

- [Report of Suspected Dependent Adult/Elder Abuse – SOC 341](#)
- [Report of Suspected Dependent Adult/Elder Financial Abuse – SOC 342](#), **for use by financial institutions only**

Senior Resources

[Community Resources for Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Prevention and Reporting \(2018\)](#) is a list of basic senior resources in the manual, [Elder Abuse – Guidelines for Professional Assessment and Reporting \(2018\)](#).

About the Elder Abuse Task Force of Santa Clara County

The Elder Abuse Task Force of Santa Clara County was formed in 1981. Composed of professionals representing agencies serving older adults, this group is committed to the education, advocacy, and prevention of elder abuse and neglect.

Through its major advocacy efforts, the Elder Abuse Task Force has worked to establish mandatory reporting legislation and maintain county protective services. The Elder Abuse Task Force has focused on professional education and community awareness of elder abuse. The group has hosted and participated in training conferences featuring national experts on this issue. The Elder Abuse Task Force's training manual, [Elder Abuse – Guidelines for Professional Assessment and Reporting \(2018\)](#), and video, [The Silent Cry: Elder Abuse Assessment and Reporting \(2008\)](#), have been distributed throughout the United States.

The Elder Abuse Task Force continues to meet on a monthly basis, working toward prevention of elder abuse and awareness of elders as a valuable and vibrant part of our community, who deserve to be treated fairly and with dignity by all of us. To join in our "elder justice" efforts or for more information, please contact the Elder Abuse Task Force at ElderAbuseTaskForce@hotmail.com.

Legal Notices

The information contained in the training manual [Elder Abuse – Guidelines for Professional Assessment and Reporting \(2018\)](#) is current as of January 2018, and in the accompanying video [The Silent Cry: Elder Abuse Assessment and Reporting \(2008\)](#), is current as of 2008. The information in [Community Resources for Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Prevention and Reporting \(2018\)](#) and [Mandatory Reporting Requirements for Abuse in Long-Term Care Facilities \(2018\)](#) updates and supplements the video. All of the materials are of a general educational nature and are not intended to replace your own reading and command of the elder and dependent adult abuse reporting law contained in California Welfare and Institutions Code section 15600 and following sections, nor to replace the advice of an attorney where appropriate.

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