

ABUSE IS ...

An elderly person needing frequent attention for unexplained injuries.

An elderly person who does not receive necessary medication or special diet by his or her caregiver.

A caregiver who restricts an elder from leaving the house or his or her room.

An elder threatened, harassed, or demeaned by a family member.

Anyone in the elder's home who refuses to move out when requested.

Shaking, slapping, shoving, or tying down an elder person.

Someone making unexplained withdrawals from an elder's bank account.

An older person persuaded or forced to sign a deed or power of attorney without adequate understanding of its consequences.

An individual depriving an older person of the control or use of his or her money and property.

HAVE YOU HEARD OF ELDER ABUSE?



**OLDER PERSONS HAVE A RIGHT
TO LIVE AS INDEPENDENTLY AS
POSSIBLE AND
WITHOUT FEAR OF PHYSICAL
OR EMOTIONAL HARM,
EXPLOITATION OR NEGLECT**

Publication of this brochure sponsored by:

**ELDER ABUSE TASK FORCE
OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY
and
SANTA CLARA COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**



ELDER ABUSE . . .

- May be psychological or physical
- Involve neglect, abandonment, or financial exploitation.
- It could be happening to ...
 - a friend
 - a family member
 - a neighbor
- Sadly, abuse is often done by someone known to the older person who is under stress...
 - a caregiver
 - a neighbor
 - a family member
- **ANY PERSON IS ENCOURAGED TO REPORT ADULT ABUSE OR NEGLECT. CERTAIN PROFESSIONALS ARE REQUIRED BY LAW TO REPORT.**
- The identity of all persons who report adult abuse or neglect situations is held confidential.

WHAT CAN I DO?

MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT ELDER ABUSE

MYTH	FACT
• Elder abuse is not a large problem in our society.	Those 75 and older are the fastest growing segment of our population and have the highest frequency of abuse in the adult population.
• Abuse is only physical.	Abuse can take many forms, including physical, emotional, financial, or neglect.
• Older people aren't usually capable of making decisions regarding their own welfare.	The majority of older persons are mentally capable regardless of age or chronic illness.
• Abuse of an elder person often involves a stranger.	Elder abuse most often comes from someone known to the older person.
• People who abuse are mean and criminal-like.	Abusers often appear polite, kind, and respectable-looking.
• Abuse is always inflicted by a person other than the elder.	An older person may abuse him/herself by neglecting essential self-care.
• If I report suspected abuse, I could become involved, or even sued.	Reports of suspected elder abuse to an agency are kept confidential, and the caller's identity is not required.
• There is little help available for abusive situations involving the elderly person.	HELP IS AVAILABLE TO THE ELDER AND CAREGIVER THROUGH AGENCIES IN THE COMMUNITY.

CALL ONE OF THESE AGENCIES FOR ASSISTANCE OR INFORMATION

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES
OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY
(408) 755-7690, (408) 975-4900,
or (800) 414-2002

INFORMATION & REFERRAL
SOURCEWISE (formerly COUNCIL ON AGING)
(408) 350-3200
www.mysourcewise.com

LONG-TERM CARE
OMBUDSMAN
(408) 944-0567 or
(800) 231-4024