

What can you do

To help stop elder abuse

CAREGIVERS

- **TALK OUT** problems if you're experiencing conflict with family members or elderly relatives.
- **PLAN FREE TIME** to do something you enjoy each day.
- **SEEK ASSISTANCE** from other family members when you need it.
- **CONTACT ORGANIZATIONS**, such as ROSE Advocates or SW Idaho Area Agency on Aging, that are set up to help the elderly. Many communities have support groups for care providers—join one.

CONCERNED CITIZENS

- **BE A FRIEND** to an elderly person. Help provide transportation, home repair, and your sympathy and understanding.
- **REPORT** suspected cases of elder abuse to social service agencies or the police.

ELDER ABUSE IS A SERIOUS - AND GROWING - PROBLEM

- **LEARN THE FACTS** ABOUT ELDER ABUSE.
- **SEEK HELP FOR ELDERLY VICTIMS AND ABUSERS.**
- **SUPPORT EFFORTS TO END ELDER ABUSE.**

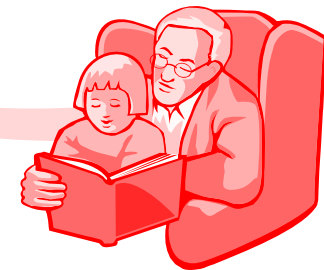
it's everyone's
responsibility to
stop elder abuse.

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elder abuse

“Every person has the right to live in a peaceful family environment free from abuse”



what is elder abuse?

It's the mistreatment or neglect of an elderly person, usually by a relative or other caregiver.

why should i know about elder abuse?

Because elder abuse happens more often than you might imagine. It's a problem that is:

VERY SERIOUS - nobody wants to believe that adult children or other caregivers abuse elderly people, but elder abuse happens with alarming frequency.

.. AND HIDDEN - It goes largely unreported because many victims are ashamed or unable to report abuse, or fear reprisals if they do speak up.

YOU CAN HELP END ELDER ABUSE The first step is to be aware that a serious problem exists. The second step is to learn what you can do about it.

elder abuse is a
national disgrace

The home should be a place of comfort and refuge, but for too

who are the victims of elder abuse?

The typical victim lives with a family member and depends on the relative for daily care.

MANY VICTIMS OF ELDER ABUSE ARE:

- Age 75 OR OVER
- WOMEN—more women are abused than men
- DEPENDENT—the victim relies on abuser for basic needs
- SUFFERING from a mental or physical impairment.

But, situations vary - -

Many other victims are financially independent and in good physical health. Emotional problems between an elder and relative or caregiver may also lead to abuse.

who are the abusers?

Typically, the abuser is a family mem-

ber, who acts in a care giving role. Likely abusers may suffer from:

stress

alcohol and drug problems

emotional problems

dependency

how are elders abused? For all too many elders, violence by a family member is a cruel and constant part of daily life. Elder abuse may take the form of:

PHYSICAL ABUSE - beating, slapping, kicking or other abuse causing welts, sprains, burns, bruises or dislocations; any abuse leading to injury or death.

FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION - mismanaging money or stealing property, savings, credit cards or social security checks; insisting on an elder's signature on wills, and forcing an elder to turn over stocks, bonds or savings.

VIOLATION OF RIGHTS - confining an elder unreasonably and against his or her will; forcing an elder out of