

ARE YOU, OR DO YOU KNOW, A VICTIM OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT?

California recognizes 8 types of elder or dependent adult abuse:

- **Abandonment** is the desertion of the elderly or dependent person by their caregiver.
- **Abduction** occurs when an elderly or dependent person is removed from the State without consent or authority.
- **Financial** abuse includes the misuse of an elderly or dependent person's assets, possessions, or property, or manipulation of the person for personal financial gain.
- **Isolation** involves restriction of a person's association or contact with family, friends or others—including prevention of the person from receiving their mail or telephone calls.
- **Mental suffering** may result from verbal abuse, threats, or intimidation.
- **Neglect** occurs when a caregiver ignores a person's physical needs or medical care, or denies the person food or medication.
- **Physical abuse** includes slapping, hitting, beating, pushing, restraining a person without a doctor's written order, or confining a person against their will.
- **Self-neglect** means that a person is failing to adequately care for themselves.

An elder is someone over the age of 65. A dependent adult is a person, 18-64 years of age, who "has physical or mental limitations that restrict his or her ability to carry out normal activities, or protect his or her rights".

On Friday, March 5th, the County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) undertook a study of abuse reported on that day all across California. The data from that study provides us with a better understanding of the characteristics of abuse:

31% of the abuse reported on that day was self-neglect

40% of the alleged abuse was committed by family members

16% was committed by non-family caregivers

8% by service providers

4% by friends.



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The typical victim was female, with major medical problems and more than half had some degree of cognitive impairment. 37% of the victims of the alleged abuse reported on March 5th were 80 years of age or older.

Reporting suspected abuse is everybody's business. County Adult Protective Services Programs are poised to take reports, investigate allegations, provide services, and coordinate efforts of family, friends and neighbors to end abuses that may be occurring and to reduce or eliminate future risks to the elderly or dependent adults.

Call your local Adult Protective Services office to report abuse. Abuse reports are generally accepted 24 hours a day, every day.

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