

WHEN SHOULD I REPORT ELDER OR DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE?

Any person that suspects abuse should report it as soon as possible. An abusive situation can continue and often escalates if there is no intervention. You need only to suspect that abuse has occurred. So, when in doubt, always err on the side of caution and report. Your call can possibly save the health, dignity, assets or even the life of an elder or dependent adult.

HOW DO I REPORT ABUSE?

In the case of immediate, life-threatening emergency, always call 911.

Call Adult Protective Services at 530-527-1911 Monday through Friday, between 8 am and 5 pm.

After hours, call 1-800-323-7711.

The reporting party's information will be kept confidential.



Tehama County Department of Social Services Adult Protective Services Division

Physical

**310 S. Main Street.
Red Bluff, CA 96080**

Mailing

**P.O. Box 1515
Red Bluff, CA 96080**

www.tcdss.org

530-527-1911

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FACTS ABOUT ELDER AND DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE



Elders and dependent adults from all walks of life can be victims of abuse.

ELDER AND DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE IS A CRIME!

THE FACTS ABOUT ELDER AND DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE

The abuse of elders and dependent adults is a crime that may be happening in your community. Abusers are family members, caregivers, strangers, men and women.

Victims often remain silent because they fear retaliation from their abusers. Others may remain silent to protect an abusive family member from the legal consequences of their crime. Many times victims remain unnoticed and untreated because they are isolated.

Over 255,000 Californians become victims each year but experts believe the problem to be much larger. There's one thing you should know – the abuse of elders and dependent adults is a CRIME. With your help, this crime can be prevented.

WHERE DOES ABUSE OCCUR?

Unfortunately, “everywhere.” Elder and dependent adult abuse can and does occur in an individual's home or in a long-term care setting. It is estimated that more than two-thirds of abusers are family members, but elder and dependent adult abuse is not just a “family matter”... it's a crime.

WHO IS VULNERABLE?

Elders, aged 65 and older, and dependent adults, age 18 to 64, who are blind or disabled. Individuals that are isolated from

society with little outside support are particularly vulnerable. Often they are dependent on their abusers and are reluctant or embarrassed to speak out. Remember, any elder or dependent adult may fall victim to abuse.

WHAT IS ABUSE?

Abuse is often divided into four main categories: physical abuse, neglect, psychological or emotional abuse and financial abuse. Other types of abuse may include isolation or abandonment. Self-neglect, although not criminal, can be detrimental to an individual's well-being and should also be reported.



RECOGNIZING THE WARNING SIGNS OF ABUSE

Physical Abuse

- Injuries that are incompatible with explanations
- Bruises, scratches or other injuries
- Inappropriate use of a physical restraint or medication

Neglect

- Poor hygiene, dirty or torn clothes or lack of appropriate shelter
- Medical conditions that go untreated
- Malnutrition or dehydration

Psychological or Emotional Abuse

- Elderly person or dependent adult is withdrawn, secretive or is hesitant to talk freely around caregiver
- Family members or caregivers isolate the elder or dependent adult, restricting contact with other family members or friends

Financial Abuse

- Unusual bank account activity, including unexplained ATM withdrawals
- Unpaid bills, eviction notices or discontinued utilities
- Unbelievable explanations given about an elder or dependents adult's finances
- Changes in spending patterns often accompanied by the appearance of a new “best friend”
- Scams, fraudulent lotteries, suspicious mailings or phone calls