



Could someone you know be a victim of elder abuse?

Could an elderly person or someone with a disability that ***you know*** be the victim of abuse? Do you know a vulnerable person who...



- ...hasn't been outside her home or in public recently?
- ...lives with a caregiver or relative who seems to frighten or intimidate him?
- ...often has unexplained bruises, burns, cuts, bandages?
- ...seems uncharacteristically anxious, withdrawn, depressed, or confused?
- ...is hesitant to talk openly with you?

Any of these behaviors ***could*** be symptoms of elder abuse, and might be cause for concern. Elder abuse includes harm from these categories:

- ***Neglect:*** mistreatment by others or ***self-neglect.***
- ***Exploitation:*** misuse of money, property or resources.
- ***Mental, emotional or physical abuse:*** physical harm, threats, terror or injury.

What can you do if you suspect elder abuse? Pick up the phone and call your local Adult Protective Services (APS), Social or Human Services, or Police. There are APS offices in every state, and your call is completely confidential. APS can investigate and deal with situations of possible abuse by arranging services such as emergency shelter, home repair, meals, transportation, help with financial management, home health services, and medical and mental health services.

What happens if you call APS and the situation is not deemed abusive? There is no penalty. And, of course – better safe than sorry! Remember – Work & Family Benefits can help you find your local APS office. We can also help ***you*** with ***your*** eldercare responsibilities. Call on us anytime for free, confidential and personalized consultation and referral.