ELDER ABUSE

TASK FORCE

More than 73,000 older adults in Michigan are victims of elder abuse. They experience abuse, neglect and exploitation.

The symptoms and treatment of elder abuse are complex and demand a concerted effort to tackle this often unrecognized and unreported social problem.

That’s why we brought together dozens of different organizations to work collaboratively to tackle the challenge.

ABUSE
Harm or threatened harm to an adult’s health or welfare caused by another person.

NEGLECT
The inability or failure to provide adequate food, shelter, clothing, medical care, etc.

EXPLOITATION
The misuse of an adult’s funds, property or personal dignity (e.g., humiliation, objectification, degradation, dehumanization) by another person.

DOCUMENT & REPORT IT
Take photographs and written notes on: what you observed, when you observed it, who was present, and any further information that may be of assistance.

Immediately report incidents in licensed settings to the administrator, the director of nursing or charge nurse (in a nursing home), or director of resident care (in a home for the aged or adult foster care) of the facility.

Immediately report applicable situations to Adult Protective Services; the State Police and/or the local police; Attorney General Health Care Fraud Division; Long Term Care Ombudsman; and the Department of Insurance and Financial Services.

PHYSICAL SIGNS
of Elder Abuse/Neglect/Exploitation

- Dehydration or unusual weight loss
- Missing medication or medical assistive devices
- Unexplained injuries or sores
- Unsanitary living conditions or poor hygiene
- Unattended medical needs or missed appointments

EMOTIONAL/BEHAVIORAL SIGNS
of Elder Abuse/Neglect/Exploitation

- Unusual changes in behavior or sleep patterns
- Withdrawal from normal activities
- Isolation from friends or family
- Increased anxiety or fear
- Hesitance to speak in presence of “caregiver”

FINANCIAL SIGNS
of Elder Abuse/Neglect/Exploitation

- Unpaid bills (elder adult receives foreclosure warnings, electricity is shut off)
- Unusual changes in spending patterns (increases in ATM withdrawals, checks made out to cash or written out of order)
- Missing household items (cherished heirlooms, expensive tools, or other valuable items)
- Unexpected changes in wills or property deeds (property deeded/will changed to benefit “new friend”)
- Purchase of large items the elder adult does not use (vehicles when the adult does not drive, timeshare purchases when adult is homebound)

*Source material used with permission from the National Center on Elder Abuse*
**REPORT ABUSE, NEGLECT**

### EXPLOITATION

Notify the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Adult Protective Services (mi.gov/protectiveservices) at 855-444-3911, if you suspect abuse, neglect or exploitation occurred in:

- A private residence;
- An unlicensed setting (i.e., assisted living facility);
- An adult foster care home;
- A home for the aged; or
- A nursing home where the suspected perpetrator is not an employee of the facility or the resident is on leave from the nursing home.

### REPORT ELDER ABUSE IN A NURSING HOME

To report abuse in a nursing home, contact the Attorney General’s Health Care Fraud Division on its statewide hotline, 800-24-ABUSE (800-242-2873), by email (hcf@michigan.gov) or through the online complaint form (mi.gov/agcomplaints).

**Michigan Attorney General**  
Health Care Fraud Division  
P.O. Box 30218  
Lansing, MI 48909

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**AGENCY** | **CONTACT** | **INFORMATION**
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Adult Protective Services | 855-444-3911 mi.gov/mdhhs | 24-hour crisis intervention for vulnerable adults.
Attorney General Consumer Protection | 877-765-8388 mi.gov/agcomplaints | Report consumer complaints (e.g., scams, identity theft).
Attorney General Financial Crimes | 517-335-7560 mi.gov/elderabuse | Report if someone is taking money or assets from a vulnerable adult not in a licensed residential care facility.
Attorney General Health Care Fraud | 800-24-ABUSE (800-242-2873) mi.gov/elderabuse | Report financial or physical abuse or neglect of residents in licensed residential care facilities.
Attorney General Public Administration | 517-335-4004 mi.gov/elderabuse | Concerns about a Public Administrator’s handling of estate assets of individuals who die without a will or known heirs.
Counsel and Advocacy Law Line (CALL) | 888-783-8190 | Attorney-staffed telephone advice, brief service, and referrals for seniors (60+) and low income people.
Department of Insurance and Financial Services | 877-999-6442 mi.gov/difs | Investigate consumer complaints against insurance, banking, credit union, mortgage and other financial products.
LARA Bureau of Community and Health Systems | Nursing homes: 800-823-6006 Adult foster care/ homes for the aged: 866-856-0126 | Report abuse or neglect concerns in licensed facilities.
LARA Bureau of Professional Licensing | 517-241-0199 mi.gov/lara | Report complaints and allegations against licensed care professionals (doctors, dentists, nurses, etc.)
Michigan Long Term Care Ombudsman | 866-485-9393 mltcop@meji.org | Concerns about your rights, care, or services in a nursing home, home for aged or adult foster care.

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