

Title: Abuse of the Elderly and People with Disabilities: An Overview

Length: approximately 65 minutes

Learning Objectives:

Participants will be able to:

Define abuse

Review forms of abuse, settings, and indicators

Discuss impact and costs of abuse

Describe beliefs and misconceptions that can be barriers to an effective investigation

Description:

With the aging of the population in the United States, including Illinois, and passage of specific crimes against the elderly and adults with disabilities, law enforcement is receiving increasingly complex calls for service. Law enforcement must be familiar with how to investigate such matters; recognize different forms of abuse, the related crimes, and their elements; and learn the skills associated with working with older adults and adults with disabilities. This webinar, the first in a series of webinar trainings sponsored by the Office of Adult Protective Services at the Illinois Department on Aging, will provide foundational information about these populations, describe why more cases are being referred to law enforcement, and discuss the complexities of these investigations. This session will describe characteristics of victims and perpetrators, the impact of victimization, and barriers to effective investigation, including ageism. It will conclude with an introduction to the role of Adult Protective Services as a community partner with law enforcement.

Presenter Information: Candace Heisler, JD. Served as an Assistant District Attorney for the City and County of San Francisco for 25 years. She headed the unit that handled elder abuse and domestic violence cases for 10 years and has developed and delivered training for law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and Adult Protective Services for over 20 years. She was instructor for the California Commission on Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) and San Francisco Police Academy for more than 10 years.

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Education:

JD, University of California, Hastings College of the Law, San Francisco

BA, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Biographical Statement:

Candace J. Heisler, J.D., served as an Assistant District Attorney for the City and County of San Francisco

for over 25 years. During this time, she headed the Domestic Violence Unit, which handled both domestic violence and elder abuse cases, as well as the Charging, Misdemeanor, and Preliminary

Hearing Units. She was an Adjunct Professor at Hastings College of the Law for more than 20 years. She now teaches a graduate course at Virginia Tech on ethics and aging.

Ms. Heisler has written for and trained a variety of professionals about elder abuse, domestic violence, and the criminal justice system, including work sponsored by the American Bar Association, Futures Without Violence, the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life, the Office for Victims of Crime, the Office on Violence Against Women, and the Judicial Council of California. She frequently presents at the annual National Adult Protective Services Association and other state Adult Protective Services (APS) conferences on related topics. Ms. Heisler has authored several curricula on interviewing alleged perpetrators, addressing undue influence, and working with the criminal justice system for APS Professionals.

Publications include “Elder Abuse Detection and Intervention: A Collaborative Approach”; “Elder Abuse” in *Victims of Crime*; “Elder Abuse Forensics: The Intersection of Law and Science” in *Elder Abuse: Research, Practice and Policy*; and “Ethics and Vulnerable Elders: The Quest for Individual Rights and a Just Society”.

Awards include: California Governor’s Victim Services Award; San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women Leadership Award; California Crime Victims United “Prosecutor of the Year” Award; California District Attorneys Career Achievement Award; Robert Presley Institute of Criminal Investigation Excellence in Instruction Award; the National College of District Attorneys’ Distinguished Faculty Award; the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA) “Rosalie Wolf Award”, and Hastings College of the Law "Alumna of the Year".

She teaches for and consults with a wide variety of governmental, educational, and private entities.