



SIGNS OF ABUSE

Toward Older Adults and/or
Persons with Disabilities

JUNE 15
IS WORLD
ELDER ABUSE
AWARENESS DAY

WHAT IS ABUSE?

Abuse is a term referring to any negligent act by a caregiver or any other person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to an older adult or an adult (age 18 to 59) with a disability. Abuse can happen to any older adult, by a loved one, a hired caregiver or a stranger. Abuse can happen at home, at a relative's home, or in an eldercare facility.

There are many types of abuse, the most obvious being physical abuse. Abuse can also consist of **emotional** abuse, **sexual** abuse, **financial** abuse, **neglect**, and **abandonment**. Illinois law now determines **self-neglect** as a form of elder abuse as well. Self-neglect is a condition that is the result of person's inability to take care of him/herself due to physical and/or mental impairments or a diminished capacity that threatens their own health.

SIGNS OF ABUSE TO LOOK FOR:

- Withdrawing from normal activities, depressed, or confused
- Decreased interaction with friends and family
- Evidence of bruises, burns, broken bones, or scars
- Lack of self care, dehydration, is overly or insufficiently medicated, or not receiving needed care for medical problems
- Bed sores or other preventable conditions
- Changes in banking or spending patterns
- Strained or tense relationships, frequent arguments between the caregiver and older adult

#ENGAGE2CHANGE

WHO DO I CALL IF I SUSPECT ABUSE, NEGLECT OR EXPLOITATION?

Call 911 immediately if someone is in immediate, life-threatening danger.

If the danger is not immediate, but you suspect that abuse has occurred or is occurring, please call 1-866-800-1409 or call our Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966; 711 (TRS).

Based upon information received from AgeGuide 5/20: (630) 293-5990 | www.ageguide.org

The Illinois Department on Aging does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in compliance with appropriate State and federal statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, call the Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966; 711 (TRS).