Federal, state and local law enforcement officers play a unique and critical role in our response to the crimes of elder abuse and financial exploitation. The Department of Justice provides resources to help law enforcement officers in many divisions respond effectively to cases involving elder abuse.

**Law Enforcement Divisions that Often Encounter Elder Abuse**

- **Patrol**
  Recognizing the red flags of elder abuse can make patrol officers a lifeline for abused older adults.

- **Narcotics**
  Investigators may come across older adults who are being abused, neglected, or financially exploited.

- **Homicide**
  Elder homicides may go unrecognized if the red flags of abuse are unknown.

- **Family Violence/Assault and Battery**
  Understanding violence across the lifespan can assist detectives in recognizing elder abuse.

- **Financial and Cyber Crimes**
  Knowing the red flags of elder financial exploitation enables financial crimes detectives to identify older victims.

- **Missing Persons**
  Officers may be looking for missing older persons who have been abandoned or neglected.

- **Animal Cruelty**
  Child abuse, domestic violence and elder abuse are more likely to occur in homes where animals are being abused.
Here’s How We Can Help

**National Elder & Dependent Adult Abuse Community**
The National Elder & Dependent Adult Abuse Community is an online forum hosted by the California District Attorneys Association (CDAA) on its Sidebars platform, where prosecutors and investigators from across the country can come together and collaborate on issues involving elder abuse prosecution. Community membership includes: Online Discussions, Resource Library, Announcements, and Responsive Format. To join the community email: emartinelli@cdaa.org

### Tools

**EAGLE** *(Elder Abuse Guide for Law Enforcement)*
Web module for law enforcement to better respond to elder abuse, quickly locate resources, and engage in training activities.

**SAFTA** *(Senior Abuse Financial Tracking and Accounting Tool)*
SAFTA is an easy-to-use tool that provides a simplified method for identifying suspicious financial patterns to facilitate financial exploitation prosecution.

### Seminars

**NW3C Financial Crimes Against Seniors Seminars**
Seminars are scheduled across the country. Additional trainings may be available upon request.

### Guides

**Legal Issues Related to Elder Abuse: A Pocket Guide for Law Enforcement**
A comprehensive guide for law enforcement responding to elder abuse, including a list of alternative charges and legal terms law enforcement needs to know.

**Physical and Emotional Abuse of the Elderly Problem-Oriented Guide for Police**
A 64-page guide for law enforcement on responding to physical and emotional abuse of the elderly.

### Websites and Resources

**Elder Justice Website- Law Enforcement Page**
Designed for law enforcement, this webpage provides information and training to more effectively respond to crimes against older adults.

**Rural and Tribal Elder Justice Resource Guide**
This guide presents resources for law enforcement (pp. 22-23), as well as resources for community outreach (pp. 30-38).

**Read Elder Abuse Stories**
EJI has compiled a list of elder abuse stories that describe various forms of elder abuse.

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For more information on the resources, please email elder.justice@usdoj.gov