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| **How to Report…**  **If you suspect abuse of an older or vulnerable adult, you are encouraged to report it and, depending on your profession (e.g., teacher, therapist, medical professional, clergy), you may be required by law to report it.1**  [*Insert state-specific mandated reporting requirements*]  *Contact law enforcement AND* [*State Adult/Child Welfare Agency*]  **To Report Abuse or Neglect to [*State Adult/Child Welfare Agency*]:**  **[*Insert contact information*]**  ***Report instances of fraud* (home equity fraud, telemarketing fraud, mail fraud, health fraud) to the [*INSERT AGENCY*]**  **What Is Guardianship?**  Guardianship is a legal process used to protect adults who are unable to provide their own care. The guardian is a court-appointed person or entity (such as a state agency) that makes decisions on behalf of the adult who is unable to provide their own care.  If you have questions about the role of a guardian or how to become a guardian for someone you know, contact [*Insert appropriate agency or office*]. | |  | | --- | | **Who Can Help?**  [*Agency*] Victim Services can assist you with information regarding victims’ rights, Crime Victim Compensation, case status, navigation of the criminal justice system, and referrals to the appropriate community resources or helping professionals or organizations according to your specific needs.  **Resources**  Local Resources  [*Insert state Crime Victims’ Compensation information*]  [*Insert other relevant local resources*]  Local Adult Protective Services  Local Older/Vulnerable Ombudsman  Local Police Older/Vulnerable Abuse Unit  Prosecutor Older/Vulnerable Abuse Unit  National Resources  **Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE)**  1-877-894-8463  [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com)  **National Domestic Violence Hotline**  800-799-7233  [www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org)  **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau**  [www.consumerfinance.gov](http://www.consumerfinance.gov)  **Administration for Community Living**  U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  [www.elderjustice.acl.gov](http://www.elderjustice.acl.gov)  This publication was produced under [*Grant Number*] awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this draft publication are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the U.S. Department of Justice.  [*Revision Date*] | | |  | | --- | | **Crimes Against**  **Older and Vulnerable Adults**  **[*Agency*] Victim**  **Adult Grief and Loss**  **Adult Grief and Loss**  **Services**  **[*address*]**  **[*phone number*]**  **[*Insert Agency logo*]**  **[insert Agency logo]**  **[insert Agency logo]**  **[insert Agency logo]**  Name/ID Number:  Direct Number: | |
| **Crimes Against Older and Vulnerable Adults**  Older and vulnerable adults are at risk of becoming victims of crime because they are often dependent on others for their care.  Older and vulnerable adult abuse is defined as the mistreatment or neglect of an older person or disabled adult. Victims include adults [*AGE*]years of age and over and vulnerable adults [*AGE*]to [*AGE*]years of age who are physically, developmentally, or cognitively disabled.1  Examples of crimes against older and vulnerable adults include:   * Injury to an older or vulnerable adult: intentionally or recklessly causing bodily injury, serious mental deficiency, or impairment to the person. * Sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault, attempted sexual assault * Financial crimes: theft, forgery, fraudulent use of ID, securing execution of document by deception, credit or debit card abuse, fraudulent transfer of motor vehicle   **Older and Vulnerable Adult Maltreatment**  The major types of older and vulnerable adult maltreatment include physical abuse, neglect, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and financial abuse. The warning signs of older and vulnerable adult maltreatment may include physical and behavioral signs from the victims and/or caregivers. While acts ofolder and vulnerable adult maltreatment do not always constitute *criminal* offenses, they are very harmful and may lead to serious injury, emotional trauma, or death.  1 [*All agencies are encouraged to review state statutes regarding mandated reporting.*] | The legal definitions can differ from the social definitions of these terms. For example, some may consider failing to transport an older or vulnerable adult to doctor’s appointments to be neglect. However, criminal code may define neglect as a willful act intended to cause or permit an older or vulnerable adult to suffer.  **Warning Signs**  The following descriptions are not necessarily proof of abuse, neglect, or exploitation, but they may be cause for elevated concern. **Physical Indicators:**  * Injuries that have not been cared for properly * Injuries that are inconsistent with explanations * Pressure wounds * Bed sores * Cuts, puncture wounds, burns, bruises, welts * Dehydration or malnutrition without illness-related cause * Poor coloration of skin * Sunken eyes or cheeks * Inappropriate administration of medication * Soiled clothing or bed—smell of urine or feces present * Frequent use of various hospitals or health care providers (“doctor-shopping”) * Lack of basic necessities such as food, water, or utilities * Lack of or limited access to personal items * Forced isolation  **Behavioral Indicators:**  * Fear * Anxiety, agitation * Anger * Isolation, withdrawal * Depression * Non-responsiveness, resignation, indifference * Contradictory statements, unlikely or unbelievable stories * Hesitation to talk openly * Confusion or disorientation | **Caregiver Indicators:**  * + Prevents or limits older or vulnerable adult from speaking to or seeing visitors, medical providers, and investigators   + Anger, indifference, aggressive behavior toward older or vulnerable adult   + History of substance abuse, mental illness, criminal behavior, or family violence   + Lack of affection toward older or vulnerable adult   + Flirtation as possible indicator of inappropriate sexual relationship   + Conflicting accounts of incidents   + Withholds affection   + Speaks of older or vulnerable adult as a burden  **Financial Abuse Indicators:**  * + Sudden changes in financial accounts or banking practices   + Unexplained withdrawal of money by a person accompanying the older or vulnerable adult   + Adding additional names on accounts or bank signature cards—usually by a relative or self-appointed power of attorney (the authority to act for another person in specified or all legal or financial matters)   + Unapproved withdrawal of funds using an ATM card   + Sudden changes in a will or other financial documents   + Unexplained missing funds or valuables   + Providing substandard care   + Unpaid bills despite having enough money   + Forged signature for financial transactions or for the titles of property   + Sudden appearance of previously uninvolved relatives claiming their rights to a person’s affairs and possessions   + Unexplained sudden transfer of assets (e.g., money, deed to property, title to vehicle)   + Providing unnecessary services   + A complaint of financial exploitation |