



**CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
LEGAL SERVICES**
JUSTICE. EQUITY. POWER.

ELDER ABUSE

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BASICS

Presentation developed with the input and support of the
DCA Statewide Medical-Legal Partnership Network





DID YOU KNOW

Mistreatment of adults, including abuse, neglect, exploitation, is estimated to impact 1 in 10 older Americans. Due to under reporting some believe it to be closer to 1 in 6 older Americans.





ELDER ABUSE AND DEPENDENT ADULT CIVIL PROTECTION ACT

The Legislature recognizes that elders and dependent adults may be subjected to abuse, neglect or abandonment and that this state has a responsibility to protect these persons. W&I Code 15600.

The purpose of this act are to require health practitioners, care custodians, clergy members, and employees of county adult protective services organizations and local law enforcement agencies to report known or suspected cases of elder abuse and dependent adults and encourage community members to do so as well. W&I Code 15601





THE FACE OF ELDER ABUSE

What does Elder Abuse look like?

Is Elder Abuse easy to recognize?

Is there a profile for the Abuser?

Have you taken action on behalf of an Elder?





TYPES OF ELDER ABUSE

- Physical
- Emotional
- Financial
- Neglect and abandonment





WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE

1. Physical abuse, neglect, financial abuse, abandonment, isolation, abduction, or other treatment with resulting physical harm or pain.
2. The withholding by a caretaker of goods or services that are necessary to avoid physical harm or mental suffering.
3. Financial abuse unaccompanied by force, threat, harassment, intimidation.





CASE STUDY 1

Is this Elder Abuse?

Senior has lived in her home for 50 years. Senior suspects her grandson is on drugs. He has been living with her for five years and is 18 years old now. Money is often missing from seniors' purse, and she has difficulty sleeping because her grandsons' friends often party late into the night. Senior wants the behavior to stop but is afraid to kick out the grandson that she helped raise.

Senior is afraid he has nowhere to go.





CASE STUDY 2

Is this Elder Abuse?

Senior and her husband have two sons. The good son lives far away. The bad son lives with them. The bad son moved his girlfriend and her kids into their home. The kids are teenagers and mistreat the seniors; leaving messes everywhere, being disrespectful. When the couple ask the bad son to move out, the son reminds them that they transferred the house to him and his brother 15 years ago. The police cannot help since the seniors no longer own the home.



CASE STUDY 3

Is this Elder Abuse?

Senior calls CCLS for help with an Elder Abuse Restraining Order. She let two friends rent rooms in her home and they allowed an additional friend to stay as well. The friends moved out, but the extra friend stayed. He does not pay rent and constantly complains to senior about her bad habits. Senior feels abused and harassed but cannot afford an attorney to evict the nonpaying tenant from her home.





CASE STUDY 4

Is this Elder Abuse?

Senior has allowed her son to live with her for several years. The son does not work and drinks often. Senior believes he is taking drugs. The son is verbally abusive and has pushed senior down twice. Senior is constantly afraid for her son and for herself. Her sons' friends come around often, and she is afraid of them too. She does not know how to kick her son out but is worried he will have nowhere to go.





CASE STUDY 5

Is this Elder Abuse?

Senior lives in the family home that his family has owned for many years. He is disabled and has a caregiver to help him with his daily physical needs. Senior decided to let the caregiver live with him for convenience. The caregiver had him sign paperwork that he later discovered was the transfer of his home to the caregiver. Now he is afraid of what the caregiver might do.





WARNING SIGNS

- **Physical-** unexplained bruises, repeated injuries, broken bones
- **Financial-** Large bank withdrawals, unpaid bills, missing items
- **Psychological-** crying, agitated, ashamed, depressed, afraid
- **Neglect-** dehydration, poor hygiene, poor living conditions
- **Abandonment-** seeing a vulnerable elder left alone, bed sores





PREVENTING ELDER ABUSE

- Listen to older adults
- Intervene when you suspect abuse
- Watch for signs
- Stay connected, check in on the elder, pay a visit
- Contact Adult Protective services and law enforcement





RESTRAINING ORDER

- Elder Abuse Restraining Order
- Initiated by the victim, not police or district attorney
- Relatively "easy" to obtain because has a lower standard of evidence than criminal cases.
- Orders can include conduct order (do not hit or yell) and stay away order (stay 100 feet away)
- Can include immediate "move out" order if there is a threat of violence. Do not have to wait for physical harm.





WE CAN HELP

- Central California Legal Services assists with Elder Abuse Restraining orders
- We help protect seniors from physical and financial abuse and provide many other services for the Seniors needing assistance.
- (800) 675-8001



How to Claim Continuing Medical Education (CME) Credit?

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