



## What is Elder Abuse?

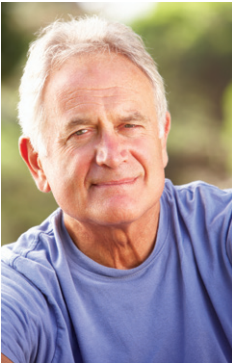
Elder abuse is the maltreatment of the elderly. The most common forms of elder abuse are: neglect, physical abuse, emotional or psychological abuse (including verbal abuse and threats), sexual abuse, financial abuse and exploitation, and abandonment. Elder abuse affects all cultures, races and socio-economic groups. It is estimated over 14,000 elders in Maine are abused, neglected or exploited each year.



## Elder Abuse Impacts Everyone

**The victim suffers.** Victims of elder abuse suffer in many different, immediate and long lasting ways: physically, mentally, socially and financially.

**The victim's community suffers as well.** Victims of elder abuse frequently withdraw from society and are less likely to participate in their communities. If nothing is done to stop elder abuse, we are accepting elder abuse as part of our community.



**Elder abuse also impacts society and the economy.** Victims of elder abuse often become less productive members of society. A once financially stable and independent elderly person can become dependent on public assistance because of abuse. Victims of elder abuse may also need more medical attention, which can cost communities more money in the long-term.

## What Can You Do?

If you see an elderly person being abused, or if you think that the elderly person is not being cared for, report it. You don't have to have proof someone is being abused or neglected to make a report. It can be very difficult for an elderly person to get help for themselves; your report might be the only think that makes them safe. There are several agencies in Maine focused on stopping and responding to elder abuse.



**Adult Protective Services** of the Office of Aging and Disability Services (Department of Health and Human Services). APS provides and arranges for services to protect incapacitated and dependent adults (age 18 and over) in danger of abuse, neglect or exploitation.

1-800-624-8404 (24 Hours, Toll Free)

TTY (24/7) Maine relay 711



**Legal Services for the Elderly** provides free and confidential legal advice to Maine residents that are 60 years of age and older. LSE can take legal action to keep a senior safe and recover stolen assets.

LSE Statewide Helpline 1-800-750-5353

TTY (Maine relay 711)



**Domestic Violence Statewide Helpline**  
**Sexual Violence Statewide Crisis and Support Line**

1-866-834-4357

1-800-871-7741

1-888-458-5599 (TTY)

**Your local Area Agency on Aging**

1-877-Elders-1

**IF YOU ARE CONCERNED FOR SOMEONE'S IMMEDIATE SAFETY CALL 911!**

A product of the Maine Council on Elder Abuse Prevention