

## What Is the Impact of Elder Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation?

- Elder abuse triples the risk of premature death and causes unnecessary illness, injury, and suffering.
- Victims of elder abuse are four times more likely to be admitted to a nursing home and three times more likely to be admitted to a hospital.
- Financial exploitation causes large economic losses for businesses, families, elders, and government programs, and increases reliance on federal and state health care programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid.
- Older adults with cognitive incapacity suffer significantly greater economic losses than those without such incapacity.
- As a result of providing care for an older adult, some caregivers experience declines in their own physical and mental health.



[elderjustice.gov](http://elderjustice.gov)

For more information about the Department of Justice's efforts to prevent and combat elder abuse, please visit the Elder Justice Website at:

[elderjustice.gov](http://elderjustice.gov)

### Victim Connect Hotline

*Crime victim service referrals,  
with senior services specialists*

9am–6pm EST, Monday through Friday

**1-855-4VICTIM (1-855-484-2846)**

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
**ElderJustice**  
INITIATIVE

Licensed material is being used for illustrative purposes only.  
Any person depicted in the licensed material is a model.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
**ElderJustice**  
INITIATIVE



*Get the facts about*

# Elder Abuse



## Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is an act, rough treatment, or punishment that may result in injury, pain or impairment.

Examples include being hit, kicked, bit, slapped, shaken, pinched, burned, pushed, shoved, grabbed, held down, or locked in. Abuse also includes not allowing someone to go to the bathroom and giving too much or too little medication.



## Psychological Abuse

Psychological abuse is verbal or nonverbal behavior that results in the infliction of anguish, mental pain, fear, or distress.

Examples include verbal attacks, belittling, bullying, refusing to talk with an elder, talking to an elder as though he/she were a young child, even though the elder has full mental capacity, isolating an elder from others, and stalking.



## Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is sexual contact of any kind, even without physical touching, with an older person without agreement from that person.

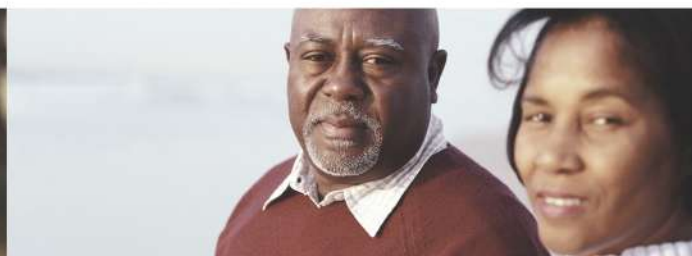
Examples include sexual assault, forcing someone to watch pornography, forcing someone to undress, and taking pictures of someone who is partly or fully undressed.



## Neglect and Abandonment

Neglect is the intentional or unintentional failure or refusal to provide care or help to an older adult by someone who is expected to provide care. Abandonment is an extreme form of neglect.

Examples include failing to provide food or water, failing to take the elder to the doctor or dentist or to the toilet, failing to keep the elder clean or the home safe and clean, failing to help the elder to dress or pay bills, and leaving the elder alone for long periods of time.



## Financial Abuse

Financial abuse is the illegal or improper use of an older person's money or property.

Examples include taking or selling things without permission, making elders sign legal documents they don't understand, forcing elders to give away something that belongs to them, pretending to be the elder to obtain goods or money, keeping money that belongs to the elder, stopping the elder from using their own money, or keeping information about the elder's money away from the elder.

### *Resources*

For information about the Department of Justice's Elder Justice Initiative efforts to prevent and combat elder abuse visit the Elder Justice website at:

<https://www.elderjustice.gov>

 An elderly woman with white hair and glasses is sitting at a desk, working on a laptop. A cup of coffee is on the desk next to her.