

How to Report Suspected Abuse

MICHIGAN ELDER ABUSE REPORTING HOTLINE

1-855-444-3911

(toll free)

"I need to make a report of elder abuse?"



Why isn't abuse reported?

Denial—The senior may not want to believe they are being abused.

Fear or shame—Older people may be afraid of what will happen if they report abuse. They may wish to protect their caregivers out of family loyalty.

Isolation or dependence—Seniors sometimes have little or no contact with people outside of their home. They may feel they have no one else to care for them.

Uncertainty—Older adults may be unsure who to turn to for help.

Embarrassment—Seniors may be embarrassed to admit what has happened to them.

What about the stress of caregiving?

Caregiving is stressful and can contribute to abuse. If you care for an elder person or vulnerable adult:

- **Ask** for help from friends and family
- **Seek** resources in your community, such as training or support groups by calling the Area Agency on Aging at 966-2450
- **Take care of yourself**—eat right, exercise, and get adequate rest
- **Know** when you are reaching your limit

What are Adult Services and Adult Protective Services?

Adult Services and Adult Protective Services (APS) are both part of the Department of Human Services (DHS). It is the responsibility of APS to take reports of abuse, investigate those reports, and take actions to safeguard and enhance the welfare of vulnerable adults at risk of harm.

Who does APS serve?

Adults likely to need protective services are often:

- Older adults
- Individuals with developmental disabilities or a mental illness
- People who are physically disabled or cognitively impaired
- People who are isolated, lack family support or other social contacts

What does "vulnerable" mean?

Vulnerable is a broad term that applies to any adult who is unable to protect themselves from abuse, neglect or exploitation because of a mental or physical impairment or because of advanced age.

What service does Adult Services provide?

The goal of Adult Services is to assist vulnerable adults to take the steps necessary to protect themselves from abuse, neglect or exploitation. Adult Protective Services (APS) and Adult Services work together.

APS Services may include:

- Protection
 - Investigation
- APS may refer victims for other services, from either Adult Services at DHS, or other community providers, including:
- Financial management
 - Conservatorship or guardianship
 - Counseling
 - Education and training
 - Family support and assistance
 - Health-related needs
 - In-home services through Adult Home Help
 - Homemaking
 - Information and referral
 - Money management
 - Volunteer services

"Do they know what's happening?"



"You are safe now!"



There is No Excuse for Elder Abuse.

It's everyone's responsibility to help STOP elder abuse.

Who is abused and by whom?

- 69% of victims are female
- The average age of an abuse victim is 70 years of age
- The abuser is a family member of the victim in more than 70% of cases.
- 70% of all abuse is neglect or abandonment
- There are more than 600 reports of abuse in Calhoun County every year

“Just sign the check. I’ll fill in the amount later.”



Why is there such concern?

Elder abuse often goes unreported. Victims may be unable or afraid to report the abuse. Others may not recognize signs of abuse. Seniors are also living longer and there are more seniors than ever before.

Elder abuse is more common than we would like to admit. It is estimated that only 1 in 7 incidences of abuse are reported!

It is harder for frail adults to recover from abuse. Abuse and neglect can jeopardize their health and may even shorten their lives.

Where does elder abuse take place and who is most likely to abuse?

Most abuse takes place in the home. Unfortunately, family members are the most common abusers. Nearly 90% of all abuse is by a family member or caregiver. Abuse most often occurs when there is a care giving situation—such as children caring for aging parents.

What can I do to help?

- **Keep in touch:** Call or visit older people and caregivers you know. Be a friend they can turn to with problems.
- **Know that help is available:** Resources are available in our community to help abuse victims including home care or adult day services; meal delivery; counseling or treatment for victims.
- **Ask for help:** If you need help with caregiving, call the Area Agency on Aging at 269-966-2450.

“I think I need some help taking care of mom.”



What is elder abuse?

Abuse is the harm or threatened harm to an adult’s health, safety or well being caused by another person.

What are the types of abuse?

Exploitation—The misuse, stealing, or mismanagement of a vulnerable adult’s money or property by another person.

Neglect—Failing to provide care such as medicine, food, and help with hygiene. It also the inability of an adult to care for themselves or respond to a harmful situation.

Physical abuse—The victim is physically, sexually or emotionally harmed or threatened with harm.



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Calhoun County Elder Abuse Prevention Coalition

Report Elder Abuse: 1-855-444-3911
(toll free number)

Region 3B Area Agency on Aging
200 W. Michigan Avenue, Suite 102
Battle Creek, Michigan 49017
269-966-2450 or 1-800-626-6719
www.region3b.org

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Calhoun County
Elder Abuse
Prevention Coalition

Working to reduce and prevent the abuse of seniors and vulnerable adults through community awareness, education, coordination and action.



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