

What can you do to Help Stop Elder Abuse

Caregivers:

- **Talk Out** problems if you're experiencing conflict with family members or elderly relatives.
- **Plan Free Time** to do something you enjoy each day.
- **Seek Assistance** from other family members when you need it.
- **Contact Organizations**, such as ROSE Advocates 24 Hour Crisis Line, (208) 414-0740, or Area Agency on Aging in Meridian, Idaho at (208) 898-7060

Concerned Citizens:

- **Be a Friend** to an elderly person. Help provide transportation, home repair, and your sympathy and understanding.
- **Report** suspected cases of elder abuse to social service agencies or the police.

"Every person has the right to live in a peaceful family environment."

Turning Abuse Around

Locations

Weiser Office

27 W. Commercial Street
Weiser, ID 83672
(208) 414-1231

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Payette Office

1520 1st Avenue South
Payette, ID 83661
(208) 642-1025

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Council Office

204 Council Avenue
Council, ID 83612
(208) 253-4949

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Emmett Office

126 N. Washington
Emmett, ID 83617
(208) 365-1615



Elder ABUSE

Elder Abuse is a serious and growing problem. Learn the facts about Elder Abuse. Seek help for elderly victims.

It is everyone's responsibility to stop Elder Abuse.

24 CRISIS LINE
HOUR (208) 414-0740

ROSE Advocates Family Resource Center for Southwest Idaho: Adams, Boise, Gem, Payette, and Washington Counties.

What is Elder Abuse?

It is the mistreatment or neglect of an elderly person, usually by a relative or caregiver.

Why should I know about Elder Abuse?
Elder Abuse happens more often than you might imagine, it's a problem that is:

VERY SERIOUS – nobody wants to believe that adult children or caregivers abuse elderly people, but elder abuse happens with alarming frequency.

AND HIDDEN – it goes largely unreported because many victims are ashamed or unable to report abuse, or fear reprisals if they do speak up.

YOU CAN HELP END ELDER ABUSE – the first step is to be aware that a serious problem exists. The second step is to learn what you can do about it.

ELDER ABUSE IS A NATIONAL DISGRACE

The home should be a place of comfort and refuge, but for too many elderly people it's a place of punishment and fear.

Who are the victims of Elder Abuse?

The typical victim lives with a family member and depends on the relative for daily care.

MANY VICTIMS OF ELDER ABUSE ARE:

- **AGE 75 OR OLDER**
- **WOMEN**– more women are abused than men.
- **DEPENDENT**– the victim relies on abuser for basic needs.
- **SUFFERING** from a mental or physical impairment.

BUT SITUATIONS VARY...

Many other victims are financially independent and in good physical health. Emotional problems between an elder and relative/caregiver may also lead to abuse.

Who are the abusers?

Typically, the abuser is a family member, who acts in a care giving role. Likely some abusers may suffer from:

STRESS
ALCOHOL/DRUG PROBLEMS
EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS
DEPENDENCY

How are Elders Abused?

For too many elders, violence by a family member is a cruel and constant part of daily life. Elder abuse may take the form of:

PHYSICAL ABUSE – beating, slapping, kicking or other abuse causing welts, sprains, burns, bruises or dislocations; any abuse leading to injury or death.

FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION – mismanaging money or stealing property, savings, credit cards or social security checks; insisting on an elders signature on wills, loans or other documents, and forcing an elder to turn over stocks, bonds or savings.

VIOLATION OF RIGHTS – confining an elder unreasonably and against his or her will; forcing an elder out of the home or controlling his or her behavior.

NEGLECT – failing to give medicine, food or personal care (such as assistance to the bathroom) withholding aids (such as dentures, hearing aids, eyeglasses, and walking aids).

PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE – verbal harassment, threats, withholding companionship from an elderly person or isolating him or her.

OTHER – allowing an elder to live in unsanitary conditions or without adequate heat or ventilation; over medicating with drugs such as tranquilizers or sleeping pills.