

## Programs that Help Elder Victims

### Victims of Crime Resource Center

Call: **1-800-VICTIMS (842-8467)**

TTY: **1-916-739-7083**

Visit: **www.1800VICTIMS.org**

### Adult Protective Services (APS)

For elders (over 65 years old) and adults with disabilities (18 years old or older)

To find your county's APS:

Call: **1-800-VICTIMS (842-8467)**

Visit: **www.cdss.ca.gov**

### Bureau of Medi-Cal, Fraud, and Elder Abuse

(at the CA Attorney General's Office)  
Investigates and prosecutes abusers

Call: **1-800-722-0432**

### Senior Legal Hotline

Free legal help by phone for Californians over the age of 60

Call: **1-800-222-1753**

### Elder Care Locator

Refers Californians over the age of 60 to state and local aging agencies

Call: **1-800-677-1116**

If an elder is in danger *right now*...

- Call 911, and
- Contact your local APS office.

## About Us

The Victims of Crime Resource Center is located on the Pacific McGeorge School of Law campus in Sacramento, California. Our services are **free**. Our expert staff know the latest information in the field. We educate victims and their families, victim service providers, and other victim advocates on:

- Victims' legal rights,
- Victims' compensation,
- Restitution,
- Civil suits, and
- Additional rights of all crime victims (including elders, children, and people with disabilities).

We also offer:

- Technical assistance and legal research to victim service providers.
- Free "Know Your Rights" presentations to community groups.

We operate **1-800-VICTIMS** – the statewide toll-free hotline that gives confidential information and referrals to victims, their families, victim service providers, and victim advocates. The hotline is staffed by McGeorge law students and supervised by lawyers.



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## Support for Elder Crime Victims

Elder  
Abuse



Victims of Crime Resource Center

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**Anyone** can be a victim of crime, but older people, especially those with physical or mental disabilities, are especially vulnerable to abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Many elderly people are isolated, and often the abuser is someone they trust, such as a relative, friend, caretaker or service provider. This can make it harder for the elder to communicate or ask for help. Or they may feel afraid or too ashamed to report abuse.

## What is elder abuse?

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Elder abuse may be:

### Physical

- Hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, or burning
- Confining or limiting movement
- Giving medicine incorrectly, or withholding medicine
- Sexual abuse
- Not providing food, care, and a safe environment

### Emotional

- Name calling, ridiculing, blaming, or always criticizing
- Ignoring or refusing to talk to the elder

### Financial

- Stealing cash, property or money from the elder's financial accounts
- Using a Power of Attorney improperly
- Changing the elder's will or trust without consent
- Selling property against the elder's wishes
- Not providing agreed services
- Pressuring the elder to make certain financial decisions

## Signs of Elder Abuse

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Elder victims of *physical, emotional or sexual* abuse may:

- Seem depressed, frightened, agitated, or confused
- Look malnourished, dehydrated, or unclean
- Live in an unclean environment
- Have unexplained or suspicious injuries
- Seem cut off from contact with others

Signs of *financial* abuse may be:

- Changes in an elder's spending habits
- ATM withdrawals, even though the elder is not able to walk or get to an ATM
- Signatures that are not in the elder's writing
- Personal property that goes missing
- The elder has money, but lives in poor conditions

**You may see these signs in an elder who is *not* being abused. But for the safety of the elder, report it.**

## Take Steps to Protect Yourself

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### Prevention

- **Watch your money.** Check your bank accounts and credit card statements often.
- **Screen your providers.** Always do a background check *before* you work with a new provider. Also talk to employers from their previous jobs.
- **Prepare legal documents**, such as a Living Will and Power of Attorney. See a lawyer or your local Legal Aid office.

### Ongoing Safety

- **Stay connected.** Ask people you know and trust to visit or contact you. It will be harder for someone to abuse you if others are around often.

- **Safety checks.** Ask someone you trust to check on you regularly to make sure you are safe. You can ask a relative, social worker from Adult Protective Services, health care worker, advocate, or someone from your place of worship.
- **Keep your communication tools handy** (phones, computer, hearing aids, etc.)

### Education

- Learn about physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, and resources in your community. You can get information from your local community center, senior center, or our office.
- Learn how to protect your money and assets:
  - Talk to a lawyer about ways to protect your assets.
  - Go to a class or free clinic that shows you how to protect your assets.
  - Don't let just one person have access to your assets. Having 2 or more people, such as a service provider *and* a friend or relative, means each will know what the other does.

### Report Abuse

If you think an elder has been abused, report it right away! When abuse *is* reported, the authorities can protect the elder and bring the abuser to justice. When abuse is *not* reported, it continues.

### How to Report

*Anyone* can report abuse, even if you are not a relative or connected to the elder.

If the victim is in a nursing or residential care home, call your county's Long-Term Care Ombudsman or the police.

If the victim does not live in a facility, contact your county's APS (Adult Protective Services).