

Red Flags of Abuse

Does someone you know—a senior or adult with a disability—display any warning signs of mistreatment?



Neglect or Self-Neglect

- Lack of basic hygiene, adequate food, or clean and appropriate clothing
- Lack of medical aids (glasses, walker, teeth, hearing aid, medications)
- Person with dementia left unsupervised
- Person confined to bed is left without care
- Home cluttered, filthy, in disrepair, or having fire and safety hazards
- Home without adequate facilities (stove, refrigerator, heat, cooling, working plumbing, and electricity)
- Untreated pressure “bed” sores (pressure ulcers)



Financial Abuse/Exploitation

- Lack of amenities victim could afford
- Vulnerable elder/adult “voluntarily” giving uncharacteristically excessive financial reimbursement/ gifts for needed care and companionship
- Caregiver has control of elder’s or adult’s money but is failing to provide for their needs
- Vulnerable elder/adult has signed property transfers (Power of Attorney, new will, etc.) but is unable to comprehend the transaction or what it means



Psychological/Emotional Abuse

- Unexplained or uncharacteristic changes in behavior, such as withdrawal from normal activities, unexplained changes in alertness, other
- Caregiver isolates elder or adult (doesn’t let anyone into the home or speak to the them)
- Caregiver is verbally aggressive or demeaning, controlling, overly concerned about spending money, or uncaring



Physical/Sexual Abuse

- Inadequately explained fractures, bruises, welts, cuts, sores or burns
- Unexplained sexually transmitted diseases



If you or someone you know is in a life threatening situation or immediate danger, call 911 or the local police or sheriff.

WHAT IS ADULT/ ELDER ABUSE?

In general, adult/elder abuse refers to intentional or neglectful acts by a caregiver or "trusted" individual that lead to, or may lead to, harm of a vulnerable elder or disabled adult. Physical abuse; neglect; self-neglect; emotional or psychological abuse; financial abuse and exploitation; sexual abuse; and abandonment are considered forms of adult/elder abuse.

WHO IS AT RISK?

Adult/Elder abuse can occur anywhere – in the home, in nursing homes, or other institutions. It affects seniors across all socio-economic groups, cultures, and races. Based on available information, women and "older" elders are more likely to be victimized. Dementia is a significant risk factor. Mental health and substance abuse issues – of both abusers and victims – are risk factors. Isolation can also contribute to risk.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SUSPECT ABUSE?

Report your concerns.

Most cases of elder abuse go undetected. Don't assume that someone has already reported a suspicious situation. The agency receiving the report will ask what you observed, who was involved, and who they can contact to learn more.

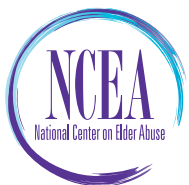
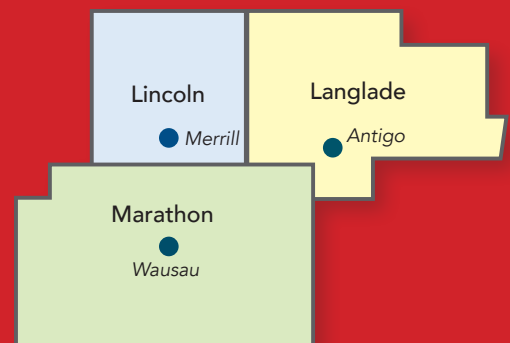
You do not need to prove that abuse is occurring; it is up to the professionals to investigate the suspicions.

If you or someone you know is in a life threatening situation or immediate danger, call 911 or the local police or sheriff.

To report suspected abuse in Marathon, Langlade and Lincoln counties, contact Adult Protective Services of North Central Health Care at **1-715-841-5160** or **Toll-Free 1-855-487-3338**.

To report suspected abuse in a nursing home or long-term care facility, contact your local Long-Term Care Ombudsman. For reporting numbers, visit www.ltombudsman.org, visit the NCEA website at www.ncea.aoa.gov or call the Eldercare Locator at 1-800-677-1116 (eldercare.gov).

To report suspected abuse in other communities throughout the United States, contact your local Adult Protective Services agency. For state reporting numbers, visit www.apsnetwork.org, visit the NCEA website at www.ncea.aoa.gov or call the Eldercare Locator at 1-800-677-1116 (eldercare.gov).



The National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) directed by the U.S. Administration on Aging, helps communities, agencies and organizations ensure that elders and adults with disabilities can live with dignity, and without abuse, neglect, and exploitation. NCEA is the place to turn for education, research, and promising practices in stopping abuse. For more resources, visit www.ncea.aoa.gov.

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Person centered. Outcome focused.



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North Central Health Care provides Adult Protective Services to the residents of Marathon, Langlade and Lincoln counties. We are here to help — working to ensure that individuals enjoy a high quality of life, maintain their dignity and preserve their rights to self-determination. We receive and screen reports of possible adult or elder abuse, neglect (self or by other) and exploitation. We then conduct investigations and make referrals to the appropriate agencies to ensure people receive the assistance they need. If necessary, we can help protect the individual by assisting with protective placement and guardianship actions through legal processes.

If you know of someone who may be at risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation by another or is at risk due to self-neglect, call 1-715-841-5160 or Toll-Free 1-855-487-3338. More information is available online at www.norcen.org.