

# Preventing Elder Abuse in Our Community

Elder Abuse is **preventable** – and everyone has a role to play.

**Here are 5 things EVERYONE can do to prevent elder abuse:**



**1) Listen** to older people and caregivers to understand their challenges and provide support



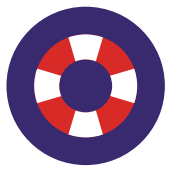
**2) Educate** one another about the signs of abuse and how to get help



**3) Report** suspected abuse or neglect as soon as possible



**4) Build** a community that fosters social connections and supports



**5) Reach out** to professional services for support where available

## Join Us in the Fight Against Elder Abuse.

On June 15 please wear purple to show your support in ending elder abuse and neglect.

**Adult Protective Services**  
**715.841.5160**  
**or 855.487.3338 (toll free)**



**Advocates for Victims  
of Domestic and  
Sexual Abuse**



**NCEA**  
National Center on Elder Abuse

**National Center  
on Elder Abuse**  
855-500-3537  
[ncea.acl.gov](http://ncea.acl.gov)

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**Keck School of  
Medicine of USC**

# Building Community Supports to Prevent Elder Abuse



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**If you suspect abuse contact:**  
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**North Central Health Care**  
Person centered. Outcome focused.

# What is Elder Abuse?

Elder Abuse, the mistreatment or harming of an older person, is an injustice that we all need to prevent and address.

Elder Abuse can occur in both community and institutional settings and can take many forms, including:



**Physical**



**Emotional/Psychological**



**Sexual**



**Neglect**



**Financial**

*Multiple forms of abuse can occur at the same or different times.*

# What Causes Elder Abuse?

Elder Abuse can occur when strong social supports are not in place to keep us connected as we age. While anyone is potentially at risk of abuse, some factors can increase one's risk of experiencing abuse:

- social isolation
- lack of access to support services and community resources
- physical, mental, or emotional needs in carrying out daily activities

## Signs of Elder Abuse

### Physical Signs

- Broken bones, bruises, and welts
- Cuts, sores, or burns
- Torn, stained, or bloody underclothing
- Sexually transmitted diseases without clear explanation
- Unsanitary living conditions and poor hygiene
- Unusual weight loss or dehydration
- Unattended medical needs

### Emotional/Behavioral Signs

- Unusual changes in behavior or sleep
- Fear or anxiety
- Isolation from friends and family
- Withdrawal from normal activities
- Sadness

### Financial Signs

- Unusual changes in a bank account or money management services
- Unusual or sudden changes in a will or other financial documents
- Fraudulent signatures on financial documents
- Unpaid bills

*Report suspicions of abuse or neglect as soon as possible!*

## Reporting Abuse

**Remember: Most cases of elder abuse go undetected. Don't assume that someone has already reported a suspicious situation. Programs like Adult Protective Services can help.**

**Report suspected abuse or neglect in the community setting:**

**North Central Health Care  
Adult Protective Services  
715.841.5160  
or 855.487.3338 (toll free)**

**Report suspected abuse or neglect in long-term care facilities:**

**Nursing Home and CBRFs  
1.800.642.6552**

**Domestic abuse resources by county:**

**Marathon County  
The Women's Community  
715.842.7323 or 888.665.1234**

**Lincoln County  
HAVEN 715.536.1300**

**Langlade County  
AVAIL 715.623.5767**

*For serious and immediate emergencies, CALL 9-1-1*