



# YORK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Research estimates that approximately 1 to 2 million Americans, age 65 or older have been abused or neglected by the very people they entrust with their care and protection.

(National Center on Elder Abuse, 2005)



803.628.3059  
Emergency 9-1-1



[yorkcountysheriff.com](http://yorkcountysheriff.com)



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1675-2A York Hwy.  
York, SC 29745

# ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS



## YORK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

# WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?



# HOW TO REPORT ELDER ABUSE



# ELDER ABUSE RED FLAGS

The National Center on Elder Abuse distinguishes between seven different types of elder abuse. These include physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, financial/material exploitation, neglect, abandonment, and self-neglect.

- **Physical abuse.** Use of physical force that may result in bodily injury, physical pain, or impairment.
- **Sexual abuse.** Non-consensual sexual contact of any kind with an elderly person.
- **Emotional abuse.** Infliction of anguish, pain, or distress through verbal or non-verbal acts.
- **Financial/material exploitation.** Illegal or improper use of an elder's funds, property, or assets.
- **Neglect.** Refusal, or failure to fulfill any part of a person's obligations or duties to an elderly person.
- **Abandonment.** Desertion of an elderly person by an individual who has physical custody of the elder or by a person who has assumed responsibility for providing care to the elder.
- **Self-neglect.** Behaviors of an elderly person that threaten the elder's health or safety.

**If you or someone you know is in a life threatening situation or immediate danger, call 9-1-1 or your local police or sheriff's office.**

If the danger is not immediate, but you suspect that abuse has occurred or is occurring, please tell someone. Relay your concerns to the local adult protective services, long-term care ombudsman, or the police.

**If you have been the victim of abuse, exploitation, or neglect, you are not alone.** Many people care and can help. Please tell your doctor, a friend, or a family member you trust, or call the Eldercare Locator help line immediately.

**You can reach the Eldercare Locator** by telephone at 1-800-677-1116. Specially trained operators will refer you to a local agency that can help. The Eldercare Locator is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time.

**Doctors and home health providers are required by law** to report suspected abuse or neglect. These professionals are called mandated reporters. Under the laws of eight states, "any person" is required to report a suspicion of mistreatment.

## EMOTIONAL & BEHAVIORAL

- Unusual changes in behavior or sleep
- Fear or anxiety
- Isolated or not responsive
- Depression

## PHYSICAL SIGNS

- Broken bones, bruises, welts
- Cuts, sores or burns
- Untreated bed sores, bloody underclothing
- Unexplained sexually transmitted diseases
- Dirtiness, poor nutrition, dehydration
- Poor living conditions
- Lack of medical aids (Glasses, walker, teeth, hearing aid, medications)

## FINANCIAL SIGNS

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

