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Spotting the Signs of Elder Abuse

Abuse can happen to anyone, no matter the person's age, sex, race, religion, or ethnic background. Learn about elder abuse, including the different types, how to recognize the signs, and where to get help.

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Spotting the Signs of Elder Abuse

Each year, hundreds of thousands of adults over the age of 60 are abused, neglected, or financially exploited.

Here are signs that an older adult in your life may be experiencing abuse:

Physical

Unexplained injuries or physical signs of punishment or restraint, such as bruises, scars, or burns

Emotional

Depression, anxiety, or changes in behavior

Neglect

Preventable health problems such as bedsores or unclean living conditions

Abandonment

Leaving an older adult who needs help alone without planning for their care

Sexual

Changes in mood, becoming withdrawn, or other physical signs

Financial

Changes in banking or spending patterns

If you suspect an older adult is being abused, talk with them and report what you see to an authority.

Learn more at www.nia.nih.gov/elder-abuse.



You may also be interested in

- Reading more about [elder abuse](#)
- Learning more about [preventing financial abuse among people with dementia](#)
- Learning about [how to talk with your doctor about sensitive issues](#)

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