

Elder Abuse

Key Message:

Be aware that Elder Abuse exists and learn to recognize signs and indicators of elder abuse.

Why is the message important?

Everyone in our community deserves to feel safe, live with dignity and be treated with respect. Recognizing elder abuse is important. Learning how to prevent and address is the issue according to your organizations policies/guidelines is an important step in eliminating elder abuse in our community. .

Details of the message:

- Abuse can occur in many forms - financial, physical, verbal and neglect.
- Most victims are abused by someone close to them, such as a partner, relative, friend or caregiver.
- A conservative estimate of elder abuse is that between 2 and 10% of older adults will experience one or more forms of abuse at some point during their senior years.
- If you suspect someone is being abused - speak to your supervisor for direction on how to address the issue.
- Be aware that elder abuse is a very sensitive issue. As with any abuse victim many may be unwilling or unable to report it for reasons such as isolation, dependency, fear, control.

Examples of how to support the message:

- Have a speaker come from Elder Abuse Peel.
- Display information on Elder Abuse throughout the year but especially during week of Elder Abuse in June.
- Educate your staff and volunteers by talking about Elder Abuse.
- Be informed of your organization/agency policy/guideline on how to report, and address potential elder abuse situations.
- Be able to identify signs of elder abuse such as isolation, anxiety, malnutrition, bruises, injuries, unpaid bills or missing property that cannot be reasonably explained.