

Abuse types – Behaviours and Signs

| Financial | Psychological | Neglect | Social Abuse | Physical | Sexual |
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| <p>Behaviours:</p> <p>Threatening, coercing re: assets or wills;</p> <p>Taking control of the older person's finances against their wishes and denying access to their own money;</p> <p>Abusing Powers of Attorney;</p> <p>Stealing goods, e.g. jewellery, credit cards, cash, food, and other possessions;</p> <p>Unauthorised use of banking and financial documents; and</p> <p>The recent addition of a signature on a bank account.</p> | <p>Behaviours:</p> <p>Pressuring, intimidating or bullying;</p> <p>Name calling, and verbal abuse;</p> <p>Treating an older person like a child;</p> <p>Threatening to harm the person, other people or pets; and</p> <p>Engaging in emotional blackmail such as threatening to withdraw access to grandchildren, family, friends, services, telephone or placement in an aged care facility.</p> | <p>Behaviours:</p> <p>Failure to provide basic needs, i.e. food, adequate or clean clothing, heating, medicines;</p> <p>Under- or over-medication;</p> <p>Exposure to danger or lack of supervision, such as leaving the older person in an unsafe place or in isolation;</p> <p>An overly attentive carer in the company of others; and</p> <p>Refusal to permit others to provide appropriate care.</p> | <p>Behaviours:</p> <p>Preventing contact with family and friends, or denying access to the phone or computer;</p> <p>Withholding mail;</p> <p>Preventing an older person from engaging in religious or cultural practices; and</p> <p>Moving an older person far away from family or friends.</p> | <p>Behaviours:</p> <p>Pushing, shoving, or rough handling;</p> <p>Kicking, hitting, punching, slapping, biting, and/or burning;</p> <p>Restraining: physical or medical;</p> <p>Locking the person in a room or home or tying to a chair or bed;</p> <p>Intentional injury with a weapon or object; and</p> <p>Overuse or misuse of medications.</p> | <p>Behaviours:</p> <p>Non-consensual sexual contact, language or exploitative behaviour;</p> <p>Rape and sexual assault;</p> <p>Cleaning or treating the older person's genital area roughly or inappropriately; and</p> <p>Enforced nudity of an older person against their consent.</p> |

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| <p>Signs: Unexplained disappearance of belongings; Unexplained or inability to pay bills; Significant bank withdrawals and/or changes to wills; Inability of an older person to access bank accounts or statements; Stockpiling of unpaid bills or an empty fridge; Disparity between living conditions and money; and No money to pay for essentials for the home including food, clothing, and utilities.</p> | <p>Signs: Resignation, shame; Depression, tearfulness; Confusion, agitation and social isolation; Feelings of helplessness; Unexplained paranoia or excessive fear; Disrupted appetite or sleep patterns, such as insomnia; Unusual passivity or anger; and Social isolation.</p> | <p>Signs: Inadequate clothing, complaints of being cold or too hot; Poor personal hygiene, unkempt appearance; Lack of medical or dental care, or injuries that have not been properly cared for; Absence of required aids; Exposure to unsafe, unhealthy, and /or unsanitary conditions; and Unexplained weight loss, dehydration, poor skin integrity, malnutrition.</p> | <p>Signs: Sadness or grief at the loss of interactions with others; Withdrawal or listlessness due to people not visiting; Changes in levels of self-esteem; Worry or anxiety after a visit by specific person/people; Appearing ashamed; and Social isolation.</p> | <p>Signs: Internal or external injuries (sprains, dislocations and fractures, pressure sores, unexplained bruises or marks on different areas of the body, pain on touching); Broken or healing bones; Lacerations to mouth, lips, gums, eyes or ears, missing teeth and/or eye injuries; Evidence of hitting, punching, shaking, pulling, i.e. bruises, lacerations, choke marks, hair loss or welts. Burns, i.e. rope, cigarettes, matches, iron, and/or hot water.</p> | <p>Signs: Unexplained STD or incontinence (bladder or bowel); Injury and trauma, e.g. scratches, bruises etc. to face, neck, chest, abdomen, thighs or buttocks; Trauma including bleeding around the genitals, chest, rectum or mouth; Torn or bloody underclothing or bedding; Human bite marks; and Anxiety around the perpetrator and other psychological symptoms.</p> |
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