



BACKGROUND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Types of elder abuse

Elder abuse refers to a broad spectrum of harmful behaviours faced by seniors including the violation of rights and freedoms. It is often perpetrated by a family member, friend or caregiver, but could be committed by a stranger. Victims may experience multiple forms of abuse including:

Physical Abuse

Any act of violence or rough treatment causing injury or physical discomfort.

- Rough handling such as shoving;
- Violence such as slapping and beating;
- Administering improper medication dosages; or
- Misuse of health equipment.

Psychological or Emotional Abuse

Any action that causes emotional anguish, fear or distress on an older adult.

- Infantilization, or treating an older adult like a child;
- Threats to harm, harass, abandon;
- Unwanted institutionalization;
- Imposed isolation; or
- Bullying, ignoring, gaslighting.

Financial Abuse

The misuse, misappropriation or exploitation of an older adult's funds and assets without their knowledge and/or full consent.

- Misusing credit/bank cards;
- Stealing or cashing pension/bank cheques;
- Tricking, threatening or persuading seniors out of their money or possessions;
- Selling possessions or property without consent; or
- Forcing elders to alter a will or abusing a power of attorney.

Sexual Abuse

Any sexual behaviour directed toward an older adult without their full knowledge and consent.

- Sexual harassment and assault;
- Nonconsensual sexual touching, such as kissing or fondling;
- Coerced nudity; or
- Nonconsensual sharing of pornography or video recording.

Neglect

The failure to meet the physical, social and/or emotional needs of an older person that can result in harm, whether intentional or unintentional.

- Inability to provide essentials such as food, water, medication, hygiene needs, shelter and clothing;
- Failure to meet the medical needs of an older person, such as regular medical and dental appointments, as well as equipment such as hearing aides and eyeglasses;
- Inability to provide safe living conditions, such as regular home repairs; or
- Ignoring an older adult's social and spiritual needs.

Self-Neglect

Any failure of an adult to take care of themselves that can cause serious physical or mental harm, as well as damage or loss or substantial damage or loss to their financial affairs.

- Not eating regularly;
- Not going to the doctor for needed care;
- Compulsive hoarding; or
- Alcohol or drug abuse.