

# Top 5 things to know about Elder Abuse:

**5** Types: Emotional, Financial, Physical, Sexual, and Neglect.  
*See back for descriptions and ways to ensure respect of older adults.*

1 in 10 older adults will be abused or mistreated by someone they know.



Only 1 of 24 cases will come to the attention of authorities.




No one deserves to be mistreated.

 There are people who can help. 




**Emotional Abuse:** Emotional abuse lays the foundation for other forms of abuse. It causes a person to doubt themselves and their worth. Emotional abuse can include yelling, threatening, insulting, or isolating an older adult.

 *Ensure Respect* – Take time to observe how older adults are being treated and make space for them to voice their thoughts and concerns.


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**Financial Abuse:** Financial abuse is devastating to older adults who can lose large sums of money quickly and have limited ability to recover what is lost. Financial exploitation is often linked with other forms of abuse.

 *Ensure Respect* – There is often a fine line between giving because you want to and giving because you feel pressured. A person's money should go first and foremost to their own needs before being used to help others.

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**Neglect:** Neglect may be active (when a person chooses to not help their loved one), passive (when they are simply unaware of or incapable of providing care), or self (when the older adult is unable to meet their own care needs).

 *Ensure Respect* – Caring for others is both rewarding and challenging. It's important to preserve an older adult's independence for as long as possible, while also offering support and resources to both the older adult and their caregiver(s).


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**Physical Abuse:** It takes less force to cause more damage to an older adult. What may cause a simple injury to a younger adult could cause irreparable harm to an older person.

 *Ensure Respect* – Nobody deserves to be harmed by others.

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**Sexual Abuse:** Sexual abuse is rarely talked about, even within professional settings. It consists of any actions that are sexual and non-consensual. There is often physical contact made, but there doesn't have to be.

 *Ensure Respect* – Consent is only valid when it's given freely, openly, and often. Consent can be revoked at any point. And as stated above, nobody deserves to be harmed by others.

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For more information on elder abuse prevention or educational opportunities contact:

Upstate Elder Abuse Center at Lifespan

585-244-8400

[www.lifespanrochester.org](http://www.lifespanrochester.org)

New York State Coalition on  
Elder Abuse  
[www.nyselderabuse.org](http://www.nyselderabuse.org)

Adult Protective Services Helpline  
1-844-697-3505  
[www.ocfs.ny.gov/programs/adult-svcs/aps/](http://www.ocfs.ny.gov/programs/adult-svcs/aps/)

NY Connects  
1-800-342-8971  
[www.aging.ny.gov/get-assistance](http://www.aging.ny.gov/get-assistance)

A portion of the Elder Abuse Education & Outreach Program is funded by the New York State Office for the Aging.  
Discover more resources [www.aging.ny.gov](http://www.aging.ny.gov)