



## Elder Abuse

Elder abuse is doing something or failing to do something that results in harm to an elderly person or puts a helpless older person at risk of harm. This includes

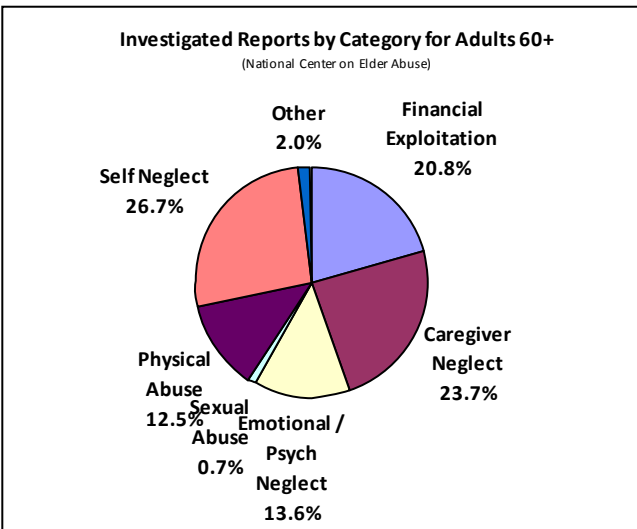
- Physical, sexual and emotional abuse
- Neglecting or deserting an older person you are responsible for
- Taking or misusing an elderly person's money or property

Elder abuse can happen within the family. It can also happen in settings such as hospitals or nursing homes or in the community. Elder abuse is a serious problem in this country. All 50 states have laws against elder abuse. The laws differ, but all states have systems for reporting suspected abuse.



## Types of Abuse

1. Physical Abuse – Bodily injury caused by physical force.
2. Sexual Abuse - non-consensual sexual contact of any kind
3. Emotional or psychological abuse – abuse caused through verbal or nonverbal acts which cause anguish, pain or distress.
4. Neglect – Refusal or failure to fulfill any part of a person's obligations or duties to an elder including failure of a person who has fiduciary responsibilities.
5. Abandonment – when caregiver who is responsible for the care of an elderly person abandons responsibility without making arrangements for the proper care of this person.
6. Financial or material exploitation - illegal or improper use of an elder's funds, property, or assets.
7. Self-neglect - behavior of an elderly person that threatens their own health or safety.



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## Getting Help

The Adult Protective Service is available in each State to elderly and disabled persons who are reported to be victims of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Contact the Eldercare Locator at 1-800-677-1116 to find the appropriate state number to call.

*Sources:*

National Institute of Health <http://www.nlm.nih.gov>

National Center on Elder Abuse <http://www.ncea.aoa.gov>