

If You Suspect Elder Abuse

Call Adult Protective Services at 832-5115 or Honolulu Police Department at 911 (emergencies or non-emergencies).

Helpful Numbers

Adult Protective Services: 832-5115

- To report suspected abuse/neglect

Better Business Bureau: 536-6956

- Monitors and provides information on businesses and contractors

Consumer Protection: 586-2630

- Investigates businesses accused of being unfair or deceptive

Consumer Resource Center: 587-3222

- Handles complaints against merchants and licensed professionals

Elder Law Program: 956-6544

- Free legal advice and services

Health Care Assurance

- Care Home, hospital and nursing home complaints (692-7400 & 7420)

Landlord/Tenant Hotline: 586-2634

- Handles landlord/tenant problems

Long Term Care Ombudsman: 586-0100

- Investigates/resolves problems with long term care providers and facilities

Senior Helpline: 768-7700

- Referral service for senior needs

Victim/Witness Kokua Service: 768-7401

- Assistance for victims of crimes



Message from
Prosecuting
Attorney
Keith M. Kaneshiro

Our parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles are the treasures of our society. They took care of us in their youth and it's up to us to protect and care for them in the senior years. Sadly, there are many in the world who seek to take advantage of our vulnerable elders.

The Elder Abuse Unit in the Prosecuting Attorney's Office was created to prosecute and bring to justice those seeking to harm the ones who raised us. It's my privilege to expand the Elder Abuse Justice Unit and put more resources toward prevention and education as well as enforcement.

If you see a crime being committed against an elderly person, please report it. If you have questions or need information, please contact our office. Together we can work toward making the senior years of one's life as safe and free from care as they can possibly be. We owe that to our elders.

Elder Abuse Justice Unit

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808-768-7536

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Abuse Is Getting Old



Elder Abuse Justice Unit



"To enhance awareness, prevention, and prosecution of crimes affecting the elderly."



“Elder abuse affects all generations.”

WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?

An action by a person, usually in a position of trust, which causes harm to an elderly person.

Any elderly person can become a victim of abuse, and it can happen anywhere.

TYPES OF ELDER ABUSE

Physical Abuse

Infliction of physical injury upon an elderly person. Examples are assaults, unreasonable physical restraint, inappropriate dosages of medication, or prolonged deprivation of food or water.



Warning signs of Physical Abuse

- Injuries that are unexplained or incompatible with explanations
- Bruises in various stages of healing
- Untreated medical conditions
- Injuries that reflect outline of an object (belt, palm, rope)

Financial Abuse - Mismanagement of money, property or other assets belonging to a senior. Relatives are responsible for the majority of these crimes. It can also include, however, contractors who target elderly by not doing work they were paid to do.

Warning signs of Financial Abuse

- Abrupt changes to legal papers, such as wills, deeds, and trusts
- Change in banking patterns
- Unexplained disappearance of valuable possessions
- “Secret loans” to friends/family
- Expensive gifts to others
- Unpaid bills despite having money

Tips to Protect Yourself

- Cancel credit cards not in use
- Balance checkbook monthly
- Never give credit cards or ATM cards to family or friends
- Never keep Personal Identification Number (PIN) in the same place as the ATM or credit cards
- Deal with only licensed contractors and ask for their license
- Don’t pay cash for construction and don’t pay the full amount before completion

Neglect - Occurs when a person responsible for providing care to an elder fails to do so. Elder neglect may include denying someone food, proper medication, clean clothes, daily hygiene or medical attention.

Warning signs of Neglect

- Exposure to safety hazards
- Absence from family gathering
- Caregiver always present and speaks for the elder
- Isolated from family and friends

Emotional Abuse

Happens when a person inflicts emotional suffering on another. It can include yelling, threats, and destruction of property.



Warning signs of Emotional Abuse

- Hesitant to talk freely
- Seems frightened or confused
- Suffers from low self-esteem
- Apologizes or tries too hard to please
- Tells improbable stories
- Goes into fits of inappropriate anger

Sexual Abuse - Occurs when a senior is subjected to unwanted or non-consensual sexual contact.

Warning signs of Sexual Abuse

- Severe depression/unusually quiet
- Soiled bedding and undergarments
- Unusual bruising in private areas



Members of the Elder Abuse Justice Unit are available to make presentations about this important subject. Please call 768-7400 for more information. Only through community awareness, will the seniors of Hawai'i receive the protection and dignity they deserve