

APS

(Adult Protective Services)

APS is a social services program that receives and investigates reported suspicions of abuse, neglect and exploitation of vulnerable adults, 60 and above, living in the community.

ALL CALLS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

If you suspect or become aware that an elderly person is being abused, neglected, exploited or is self-neglecting, report it to New Jersey Adult Protective Services.

Call: 908-788-1300

or

Dial: 911

Elder abuse is a 3rd degree crime, punishable by law.

Only 1 in 14 cases of elder abuse is ever reported to the authorities.

Resources

Hunterdon County Department of
Human Services:

Division of Social Services

Phone: **908-788-1300**

Division of Senior, Disabilities and
Veterans Services

Phone: **908-788-1361**

Hunterdon County Senior Center

Phone: **908-788-1359**

New Jersey Division of Aging and
Community Resources

Phone: **609-943-3345**

National Center on Elder Abuse –
Administration on Aging

Phone: **1-855-500-3537**

Information found from:

www.healthynj.org/wellness/elderabuse

www.ncea.acl.gov/faq/index.aspx

www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/aging/seniorcenter

SAFE in Hunterdon

47 East Main Street, Flemington, NJ 08822

24 Hour Hotline: **908-788-4044**

Toll Free Hotline: **1-888-988-4033**

SAFE in Hunterdon is friendly and accessible to the deaf community and persons who are hearing impaired. Please text us 24/7 at **908-455-2927**

www.safeinhunterdon.org

Office: **908-788-7666** Fax: **908-806-4725**

Email: agency@safeinhunterdon.org

Member Agency of:

United Way

New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault
New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence



Our mission is to cultivate safety, empowerment and healing in an alliance with adults, teens and children who are affected by domestic and sexual violence.

Join us in mobilizing the community to promote social change which will reduce power-based violence, control and oppression!

Elder Abuse

24 Hour Hotline: 908-788-4044
Toll Free Hotline: 1-888-988-4033

What is Elder Abuse?

Elder abuse is a term that refers to any knowing, intentional or negligent act by a caregiver or any other person who causes harm or a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable adult.

Types of Abuse

Physical Abuse: Inflicting, or threatening to inflict, physical pain or depriving them of basic needs

Sexual Abuse: Non-consensual sexual penetration or sexual contact of any kind

Emotional Abuse: Inflicting mental pain or distress through verbal or nonverbal acts

Neglect: Refusal or failure by those responsible to provide food, shelter, health care or protection

Exploitation: Illegal taking, misuse or concealment of funds, property or assets

Abandonment: Desertion by anyone who has assumed the responsibility for care or custody

Warning Signs of Elder Abuse

- Unexplained bruises, welts, burns, pressure marks, broken bones
- Bruises around the breasts or genital area
- Fear/anxiety or agitation around certain household members or caregivers
- Changes in appetite or unusual/dramatic weight gain or loss
- Poor personal hygiene
- Sudden changes in financial situations or inability to pay bills
- Lack of knowledge about personal finances or conflicting stories
- Increasing withdrawal/isolation
- Dependency of adult child/caregiver on the older individual for income and/or shelter
- Wearing of inadequate or inappropriate clothing
- Strained or tense relationships or frequent arguments between the caregiver and elderly person

Most cases of elder abuse are perpetrated by known and trusted people, particularly family members.

What Makes an Older Adult Vulnerable to Abuse?

Although the factors listed below do not explain all types of maltreatment, the following are some of the risk factors that researchers say are related to:

-Dementia and Cognitive Impairment

-Includes caregiver's heightened perception of burden and depressive symptoms

-Domestic Violence Grown Old

-Continued exertion of power and control through violence, abuse and threats

-Personal Problems of Abusers

-Abuser's dependency on their victim, mental illness, addictions or dysfunctional personality disorders

-Living with Others and Social Isolation

-Abusers often live with their victim and isolate them from the larger community