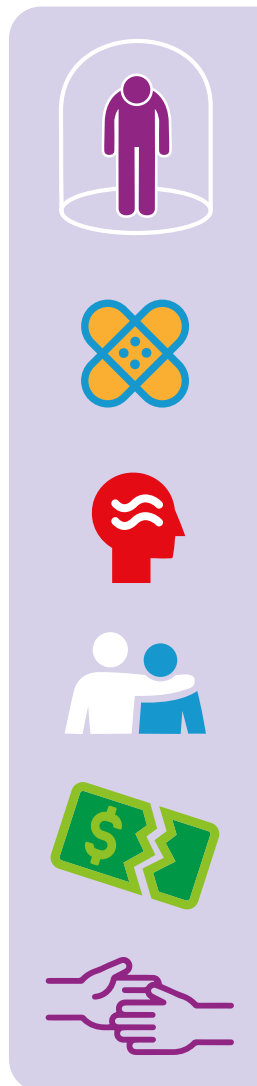


## What Is Elder Abuse?

**The Elder Justice Act** defines elder abuse as the knowing infliction of physical or psychological harm or the knowing deprivation of goods or services that are necessary to meet essential needs or to avoid physical or psychological harm. “Elder” means an individual age 60 or older.



**SAGE** reports that older people served by our communities face unique challenges.

They are:

- 2 times as likely to live alone
- 5 times less likely to have been married
- 2 times less likely to have children

All of these factors may lead to increased social isolation and loneliness – a major risk factor for elder abuse.

**The National Center on Elder Abuse** and **SAGE** encourage communities to be aware of the following signs of elder mistreatment:

### Physical Abuse

- Unattended medical needs
- Unexplained injuries, bruises and cuts

### Emotional/Behavioral Abuse

- Increased fear or anxiety
- Isolation from friends or family, withdrawal from normal activities

### Sexual Abuse

- Unwanted touching, sexual assault, sexual harassment
- Sexual interaction with elders who lack the capacity to give consent

### Financial Abuse

- Fraudulent signatures on financial documents
- Unpaid bills
- Unusual or sudden changes in spending
- Sexual

### Neglect by Caregiver

- Lacking necessities such as food, water, clothing, shelter, and medicine

If you suspect elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation, contact your local Adult Protective Services to report abuse or the local Area Agency on Aging to seek assistance. Call **Eldercare Locator 1-800-677-1116** to get connected.