



## **ELDER ABUSE**

### **Police, Sheriff or Medical Emergency – Call 911**

The National Center on Elder Abuse has an exceptional web site dealing with issues of elder abuse nationally. It contains many resources to help you find the assistance, publications, data, information, and answers you need. The home page serves as the site's table of contents. Click here for their web site: [www.elderabusecenter.org](http://www.elderabusecenter.org).

Federal definitions of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation appeared for the first time in the 1987 Amendments to the Older Americans Act. These definitions were provided in the law only as guidelines for identifying the problems and not for enforcement purposes. Currently, elder abuse is defined by state laws, and state definitions vary considerably from one jurisdiction to another in terms of what constitutes the abuse, neglect, or exploitation of the elderly. In addition, researchers have used many different definitions to study the problem. Broadly defined, however, there are three basic categories of elder abuse: (1) domestic elder abuse; (2) institutional elder abuse; and (3) self-neglect or self-abuse. In most cases, state statutes addressing elder abuse provide the definitions of these different categories of elder abuse, with varying degrees of specificity.

Domestic elder abuse generally refers to any of several forms of maltreatment of an older person by someone who has a special relationship with the elder (e.g., a spouse, a sibling, a child, a friend, or a caregiver in the older person's own home or in the home of a caregiver.)

Institutional abuse, on the other hand, generally refers to any of the above-mentioned forms of abuse that occur in residential facilities for older persons (e.g., nursing homes, foster homes, group homes, board and care facilities). Perpetrators of institutional abuse usually are persons who have a legal or contractual obligation to provide elder victims with care and protection (e.g., paid caregivers, staff, professionals).

Definitions and legal terminologies vary from state to state in regards to the types of domestic elder abuse that NCEA recognizes as well as their signs and symptoms:

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional or Psychological Abuse
- Neglect
- Abandonment
- Financial or Material Exploitation
- Self Neglect

**THE BASICS:**

Need to know what elder abuse is, how it can be addressed, how often it happens and to whom, and what the major causes are? Click here for [basic fact sheets](#).

**REPORTING ELDER ABUSE:**

*Do you know of an abused, neglected, exploited or self-neglecting elder who needs help? Here are state [elder abuse reporting numbers](#).*

**WHAT'S NEW AT NCEA:**

The NCEA is constantly updating their website. For the [latest news and features](#), click here.

**ACTION AGENDA:**

*In December 2001, a national summit of elder abuse professionals was convened. Click here to see the resulting [Action Agenda](#).*

**INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE:**

*Nursing homes and other institutions can be settings for abuse, neglect, and exploitation, as well. Here are links to information on [institutional abuse](#).*

**AMERICAN INDIANS:**

NCEA has an American Indian project to identify tribal based approaches to addressing problems associated with [abuse of Indian elders](#).

**PUBLICATIONS:**

*The National Center on Elder Abuse makes dozens of publications available on the website and by mail. Click here to see [NCEA Publications](#).*

**NCEA LIST SERVE:**

To connect professionals, researchers, and others interested in elder abuse, NCEA sponsors an online discussion group. Click here to find out how to subscribe to the [NCEA List Serve](#).

**CLEARINGHOUSE:**

*Looking for reports, articles, or other publications on elder abuse? The Clearinghouse on Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly (CANE) produces individualized, annotated bibliographies based on their holdings of more than 3,000 items. Click here for information on using the [Clearinghouse](#).*

**STATISTICS:**

NCEA produces biannual compilations of state Adult Protective Services data, and helped conduct the National Elder Abuse Incidence Study. Click here for the latest [elder abuse data](#).

**ELDER ABUSE LAWS:**

*Need to know what laws govern elder abuse? [Click here for more information on state elder abuse laws.](#)*

**NEWSLETTER:**

NCEA's newsletter covers legislative and policy developments; reviews of new resources; best practices; and other elder abuse developments. Click here to see the latest (and archived) [newsletters](#).

**CONFERENCES:**

*Click here for a listing of upcoming [conferences](#) and other training events about elder abuse and related topics.*

**FAMILY CAREGIVERS:**

If you are responsible for the care of a dependent elder, click here for advice on preventing abuse and links to [caregiver resources](#).

**COMMUNITY COALITIONS:**

*Many communities are organizing to raise awareness of and help prevent elder abuse. Click here to learn more about [community elder abuse coalitions](#).*

**RESEARCH:**

Want to research emerging elder abuse issues? Look at reviews of existing research on selected topics? Click here for [research](#).

**LINKS:**

The World Wide Web is full of information and resources. Click here for [links](#) to sites devoted to elder abuse and related topics.