

# Red Flags of Abuse

Do you know a senior or an adult with a disability who displays warning signs of abuse?



Prosecuting Attorney

## Mark Lindquist

Deputy Prosecutor  
Sven Nelson  
(253) 798-6613



### Neglect

- Lack of basic hygiene, adequate food, or clean clothing
- Lack of medical aids (glasses, walker, hearing aid, medications)
- Home cluttered, filthy, in disrepair, or has fire and safety hazards
- Untreated pressure “bed” sores
- Person with dementia left unsupervised
- Person confined to bed left without care
- Homes without adequate facilities (stove, refrigerator, heat, cooling, working plumbing and electricity)



### Financial Abuse/Exploitation

- Vulnerable elder/adult “voluntarily” giving uncharacteristically excessive payments/gifts for needed care and companionship
- Lack of amenities victim can afford
- Caregiver has control over finances, but is failing to provide for elder’s needs
- Newly-changed legal documents (Power of Attorney, will, etc.) that elder is unable to comprehend



### Psychological/Emotional Abuse

- Withdrawal from normal activities
- Caregiver isolates elder by controlling access to him/her
- Caregiver is verbally aggressive or demanding, controlling, overly concerned about finances of elder



### Physical/Sexual Abuse

- Inadequately explained fractures, bruises, or injuries
- Unexplained sexually transmitted diseases

**Contact Us:** (253) 798-7400

**If you know someone who is in immediate danger, call 911 or local law enforcement**

Prosecuting Attorney

**Mark  
Lindquist**



Prosecuting Attorney Mark Lindquist



Deputy Prosecutor Sven Nelson



(253) 798-6613

## WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?

In general, elder abuse refers to intentional or neglectful acts by a caregiver or “trusted” individual that lead to, or may lead to, harm of a vulnerable elder.

In Washington, younger adults with disabilities qualify for the same legal protections. Physical abuse; psychological abuse; sexual abuse; neglect and abandonment are forms of elder abuse.

## WHO IS AT RISK?

Elder abuse can occur anywhere -- in the home, in assisted living facilities, or other institutions.

It affects seniors across all socio-economic groups, cultures and races.

Based on available information, women and older elders are more likely to be victimized. Dementia and isolation are also significant risk factors.

## IF ABUSE IS SUSPECTED?

Report your concerns. Most cases of elder abuse go undetected. Don't assume that someone has already reported a suspicious situation.

The agency receiving the report will ask what you observed, who was involved, and who they can contact to learn more. You do not need to prove that abuse is occurring in order to report your suspicions.

**Contact Us:** (253) 798-7400

**Adult Protective Services:  
1-866-END-HARM**

**James Lynch**  
Communications Coordinator  
(253) 798-6265  
jlynch@co.pierce.wa.us

**If you know someone who is in immediate danger, call 911 or local law enforcement**