

## Report Elder Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation

If you, an elder or vulnerable adult is being victimized, do not remain silent. **Report the abuse by calling 911 or the Adult Protective Services 24-hour hotline at (202) 541-3950.**

### OAG Resources:

#### Elder Abuse Hotline and Email

(202) 727-3807;  
ElderJustice@dc.gov

#### OAG Office of Consumer Protection

(202) 442-9828;  
Consumer.Protection@dc.gov

### D.C. Government Resources:

#### D.C. Department of Aging and Community Living

(202) 724-5622; dcoa.dc.gov

#### Department of Behavioral Health

(888) 793-4357; dbh.dc.gov

#### Department of Health—Board of Nursing

(877) 672-2174; hpla.doh.dc.gov

#### Department of Health Care Finance—Medicaid and Alliance Programs

(877) 632-2873; dcmedicaid.gov

#### Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking

(202) 727-8000; disb.dc.gov

#### Office of the Health Care Ombudsman

(877) 685-6391;  
healthcareombudsman.dc.gov

### Other Resources:

#### Eldercare Locator

(800) 677-1116; eldercare.acl.gov

#### Long-Term Care Ombudsman (AARP)

(202) 434-2140; dcombuds@aarp.org

#### Legal Counsel for the Elderly (AARP)

(202) 434-2120;  
<https://www.aarp.org/legal-counsel-for-elderly>

### To Seek a Protection Order or Have an Abusive Person Removed from a Senior's Home, Go To:

#### Domestic Violence Intake Centers:

- 500 Indiana Ave, NW, Room 4550; (202) 879-0152
- United Medical Center, 1328 Southern Ave. SE, Room 311; (202) 561-3000

### To Seek a Guardian or Conservator if the Elder or Vulnerable Adult is Incapacitated:

#### Call Adult Protective Services

(202) 541-3950

#### File an Intervention Petition in the Probate

#### Division of D.C. Superior Court

515 Fifth Street, NW, Third Floor

(202) 879-9460;

<http://bit.ly/InterventionPetition>

Office of the Attorney General  
for the District of Columbia  
441 4<sup>th</sup> St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Phone and TTY: (202) 727-3807  
[www.oag.dc.gov](http://www.oag.dc.gov)

# *Protecting Seniors and Vulnerable Adults from Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation*

*Office of the Attorney General  
for the District of Columbia*



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## Elder Abuse

The Office of the Attorney General is committed to helping and protecting the District's seniors and vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

This District of Columbia is home to approximately 83,000 seniors and that number is expected to double by 2050. As the elder population grows, so does the potential for an increase in the number of elders who are abused, neglected, and exploited.

We must remain vigilant and aware of the signs of abuse to our elders and vulnerable adults. An elder or vulnerable adult may be reluctant to report abuse because of fear of retaliation, lack of the physical or cognitive ability to report the abuse, or because they do not want to get the alleged abuser in trouble.

With knowledge of how to detect, prevent, and report abuse, you can help stop it.

## Warning Signs of Abuse, Neglect and Financial Exploitation

- Look for changes in:
  - personality, such as apologizing excessively or depression
  - behavior, such as fearfulness, anxiety, withdrawal, self-harm, irritableness, or repetitive movements, such as rocking or swaying
  - physical appearance, such as being underweight, frail, or unclean
  - living conditions, such as clutter, disconnected utilities, or disrepair
- Unexplained bruises, welts, cuts, wounds, and other physical injuries
- Transfer of assets to a family member or someone outside the family
- Overpayment for goods or services
- Unexplained changes in power of attorney, will, or legal documents
- Missing checks, money, or belongings
- A new “best friend” who causes the elder to act in a manner that is inconsistent with their financial, emotional, mental or physical well-being

## Preventing Elder Abuse

Caretakers, family, friends, medical professionals, and others providing support for seniors should watch for warning signs of abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Keep in contact with the individual and their other caregivers, ideally through face-to-face contact. If you become overwhelmed with caregiver duties, find resources at:

- [eldercare.acl.gov](http://eldercare.acl.gov)
- [caregiveraction.org](http://caregiveraction.org)
- [caregiver.org](http://caregiver.org)

Keep in contact with banks and other financial institutions that the elder frequents. Get to know bank staff, investment advisors, and others handling the elder's money.

To protect a senior or vulnerable adult, you may have to access the resources on the back of this brochure to:

- Obtain a protection order
- Remove an abuser from the person's home
- Seek, oppose, limit, or terminate a guardianship or conservatorship