

# Elder Abuse: What You Need To Know

Recognize the Signs. Respect Their Dignity. Respond with Care.

## How Common Is It?

Research indicates that more than **one in ten** elders may experience some type of abuse, but only half of these are reported.



## What Is It?

**Intentional** or **neglectful** acts that lead to, or may lead to, harm of a vulnerable older adult.

## What Does it Look Like?

Elder abuse can happen in many ways including:

**Physical**—Hitting, slapping, punching, kicking, or other show of force.

**Emotional** —Yelling, put downs, isolation, threats.

**Sexual**—Forcing sexual contact or behaviors without the person's consent.

**Exploitation**—Illegal use of an older individual's money, property or assets.

**Neglect/Abandonment**—Ignoring an older individual's physical, medical or basic needs.

## Resources



Abuse Ignores Age



### Abuse/Neglect/Exploitation

Adult Protective Services  
(303) 441-1000

### Domestic/Family Violence

Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley  
(303) 772-4422

### Sexual Assault

Moving to End Sexual Assault (MESA)  
(303) 443-7300

### Financial Exploitation

Community Protection—DA's Office  
(303) 441-3700

### Help for Nursing Home & Assisted Living Residents

Long-term Care Ombudsman  
(303) 441-1173

### Longmont Police Department

(303) 651-8555

### National Elder Abuse Hotline

1-800-677-1116

## Who Is At Risk?

Elder abuse can happen to anyone. However, there are some risk factors that increase the likelihood of victimization: **Isolation, drug/alcohol abuse, dementia, being female, and advanced age.**

## Who Are the Abusers?

Adult children, grandchildren, family members, intimate partners, caregivers, neighbors, and occasionally, strangers.

## Where Does it Happen?

Most often, in a private home, but it can happen in a skilled nursing or assisted living facility.

## What are the Costs?

Elder abuse and mistreatment increases the risk of premature death by 300%. Financial abuse robs seniors of \$2.6 billion annually.

## How Can I Prevent It?

1. Keep in contact with the older adults in your life.
2. Be aware of the warning signs.
3. Report suspected abuse (see resources list).