

ELDER ABUSE: NEGLECT

What is neglect?

Neglect is the failure to provide basic necessities such as food, shelter, or medical care, or preventing someone from accessing these necessities.

Neglect is a form of abuse. It may be intentional or unintentional.

It is critical to seek appropriate support to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the older person.

Signs of neglect

- Inadequate clothing
- Lack of medical or dental care
- Injuries that have not been properly cared for
- Absence of required medical aids or devices
- Complaints of it being too hot or too cold in their home
- Poor personal hygiene, unkempt appearance
- Living in unsafe, unhealthy, dangerous, or unsanitary conditions
- Unexplained weight loss, dehydration, poor skin integrity, malnutrition

Neglectful behaviours

- Under- or over-medicating
- Refusing others to permit care
- Overly attentive or hovering in the company of others
- Failure to provide basic needs, such as food, adequate or clean clothing, heating, air con, medication, or medical devices/aids
- Exposure to danger or lack of supervision, such as leaving an older person in an unsafe place, in isolation, or in poor living conditions

What to do if you or a loved one are experiencing elder emotional abuse

1. Reach out

There is no shame in asking for help. You can ring the **Senior Relationship Services (SRS)** at **1300 062 232**.

2. Organise a confidential discussion

Our qualified, experienced staff can help you explore your concerns in a safe environment.

3. Make a plan

SRS will support you in moving forward, including safety plans, legal advice, counselling, mediation, case management, and external referrals.

4. Check in regularly

Whether it's yourself or a loved one, we all need to continuously make sure someone is okay when they have experienced abuse.



1300 062 232



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