

KNOW THE SIGNS OF ELDER ABUSE

FINANCIAL

- Inability to pay bills
- Stockpiling of unpaid bills
- Unexplained disappearances of belongings
- Inability to access bank accounts or statements
- Disparity between living conditions and money
- Significant bank withdrawals and/or changes to will
- No money to pay for essentials for the home including food, clothing and utilities

EMOTIONAL

- Social withdrawal
- Resignation, shame
- Depression, fearfulness
- Unusual passivity or anger
- Changes in levels of self-esteem
- Disrupted appetite or sleep patterns
- Confusion, agitation, and social isolation
- Sadness or grief at the loss of interactions with others
- Worry or anxiety surrounding a visit by specific person/people

NEGLECT

- Inadequate clothing
- Absence of required aids
- Complaints of being too cold or too hot
- Poor personal hygiene, unkempt appearance
- Exposure to unsafe, unhealthy, or unsanitary conditions
- Lack of medical or dental care, or injuries that have not been properly cared for
- Unexplained weight loss, dehydration, poor skin integrity, malnutrition

PHYSICAL

- Broken or healing bones
- Unexplained internal or external injuries
- Lacerations to mouth, lips, gums, teeth, eyes, or ears
- Burns, e.g. rope, cigarettes, matches, iron, and/or hot water
- Evidence of hitting, punching, shaking, pulling, such as bruises, lacerations, choke marks, hair loss, or welts

SEXUAL

- Human bite marks
- Anxiety around the perpetrator
- Unexplained STI or bladder/bowel incontinence
- Injury and trauma such as scratches, bruises, or bleeding around the genitals, chest, rectum, or mouth



1300 063 232



raq.org.au

RECOGNISE ABUSIVE BEHAVIOURS TOWARDS OLDER PEOPLE

FINANCIAL

- Misusing powers of attorney
- Threatening or coercing in regards to assets or wills
- The recent addition of signature on a bank account
- Unauthorised use of banking and financial documents
- Stealing goods such as jewellery, credit cards, cash, or food
- Denying or controlling access to their own money or bank accounts
- Taking control of an older person's finances against their wishes

EMOTIONAL

- Using blackmail or threats
- Name-calling, verbal abuse
- Pressuring, bullying or intimidating
- Treating an older person like a child
- Threatening to harm the person, other people, or their pets
- Moving an older person away from family or friends
- Preventing from engaging in religious or cultural practices
- Preventing contact with family and friends; denying access to phone, computer, or mail

NEGLECT

- Under- or over-medicating
- Overly attentive in the company of others
- Refusal to permit others to provide appropriate care
- Failure to provide basic needs, e.g. food, adequate or clean clothing, heating, medicines
- Exposure to danger or lack of supervision, such as leaving older person in an unsafe place or in isolation

PHYSICAL

- Restraining; physical or medical
- Overuse or misuse of medications
- Pushing, shoving, or rough-handling
- Intentional injury with a weapon or object
- Kicking, hitting, punching, slapping, biting, and/or burning
- Locking the person in a room or home or tying a person to a chair or bed

SEXUAL

- Enforcing nudity
- Rape and sexual assault
- Unwanted exposure to pornography
- Non-consensual sexual contact or language
- Making them feel uncomfortable about their body or gender
- Cleaning or treating the person's genital area roughly or inappropriately



1300 063 232



raq.org.au