

Referral Sources:

Geauga Department on Aging

12555 Ravenwood Dr.

Chardon, OH 44024

(440) 285-2222

COPELINE:

[1-888-285-5665](tel:1-888-285-5665)

"Care for People on Emergencies"

24-hour toll-free help line:

- Domestic Violence
- Mental Health
- Child or Elder Abuse
- Homelessness

Free Information and Referral Service



What to do if you suspect elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation?

Contact:

Geauga County Job & Family Services at:

Local: 440-285-9141

Toll free: 1-800-209-7590

After hours: 440-285-5665

12480 Ravenwood Dr.

Chardon, Ohio 44024

Fax: 440-286-6654

If possible when calling please include the following information:

- Name, address, phone number, and birth date of the elderly person
- Name, address, phone number of the caretaker, alleged perpetrator, and / or guardian
- Name and relationship of anyone else living in the home
- Reason you suspect, abuse, neglect, or exploitation, including the nature and extent of the suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation, and how long the situation has existed
- Name, phone number, and relationship of any other family, supports, or involved agencies

Geauga County Job & Family Services

Adult Protective Services



To Report Elder Abuse:

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An elder abuse victim must be:

- 60+ years in age
- Living in the community, not in a long term care facility
- A suspected victim of abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and / or financial exploitation

Statistics:

According to the National Center on Elder Abuse:

- “Abusers of older adults are both women and men. Family member are more often the abusers than any other group. For several years, data showed adult children were the most common abusers of family members; recent information indicates spouses are the most common perpetrators when state data concerning elder and vulnerable adults is combined.”

According to Elder and Abuse & Neglect: In Search of Solutions:

- “Every year, an estimated 2.1 million older adults are victims of physical, psychological, or other forms of abuse/neglect.”
- “For every case of Elder Abuse and Neglect reported to authorities, experts estimate that there may be as many as 5 cases not reported.”



Types of Elder Abuse

- **Physical abuse:** intentional use of physical force that results in bodily injury, pain, or impairment
- **Sexual abuse:** nonconsensual sexual contact of any kind with an adult, regardless of age of the perpetrator.
- **Emotional abuse:** to threaten, humiliate, intimidate, or psychologically harm an adult.
- **Exploitation:** the unlawful or improper act of a caretaker using an adult or his resources for monetary or personal benefit, profit, or gain.
- **Neglect:** failure of an adult to provide for himself the goods or services necessary to avoid physical harm, mental anguish, or mental illness, or the failure of a caretaker.

What are the Risk Contributors to Elder Abuse?

Elder Abuse can be a combination of psychological, social, and economic factors, along with mental and physical conditions of the victim and the perpetrator.

1.) Personal problems of the alleged perpetrator:

Abusers are often dependent on their victims for financial assistance, housing, & other forms of support. This need may develop as a result of personal problems, such as mental health issues, alcohol or drug abuse, or other personality characteristics.

2.) Living with other and isolation:

Both living with someone else & socially isolated have been associated with higher elder abuse rates.

3.) Caregivers stress:

Well intentioned caregivers can become so overwhelmed by the burden of caring for dependent elders

4.) Personal characteristics of the elder:

Dementia, disruptive behaviors, problematic personality traits, & significant needs for assistance may also increase the risk of an elder being abused.

5.) Cycle of violence:

Domestic violence can also be a learned problem solving behavior transmitted from one generation to the next.