

# World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)

WEAAD was launched on June 15, 2006 by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization at the United Nations. WEAAD is an opportunity for individuals or organizations to take action to protect older people by raising awareness about elder abuse, why it occurs, and what we can do to stop it. We can act collectively to support justice for all.

## Signs of Elder Abuse

### EMOTIONAL & BEHAVIORAL SIGNS

- Increased fear or anxiety
- Isolation from friends or family
- Unusual changes in behavior or sleep
- Withdrawal from normal activities

### PHYSICAL SIGNS

- Dehydration or unusual weight loss
- Missing daily living aids (glasses, walker, or medication)
- Unexplained injuries, bruises, cuts, or sores
- Unsanitary living conditions and poor hygiene
- Unattended medical needs
- Torn, stained, or bloody underclothing
- Sexually transmitted diseases without clear explanation

### FINANCIAL SIGNS

- Fraudulent signatures on financial documents
- Unpaid bills
- Unusual or sudden changes in spending patterns, will, or other financial documents

## Resources and Support for Reporting Abuse:

Programs such as Adult Protective Services (APS) and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program are here to help. Report suspected abuse in the community to the local Adult Protective Services agency and report suspected abuse in a long-term care facility to the local Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. For serious and immediate emergencies, call 9-1-1.

To connect to a local or state reporting number, contact the Eldercare Locator at [eldercare.acl.gov](https://eldercare.acl.gov) or at [1-800-677-1116](tel:1-800-677-1116).

### 5 THINGS EVERYONE CAN DO TO PREVENT ELDER ABUSE

1. **Listen** to older people and caregivers to understand their challenges and provide support
2. **Educate** one another about the signs of abuse and how to get help
3. **Report** suspected abuse or neglect as soon as possible
4. **Build** a community that fosters social connections and supports
5. **Reach out** to professional services for support where available

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

- [World Elder Abuse Awareness Day \(WEAAD\) Microsite](#)
- [National Center on Elder Abuse](#)

