

Overview

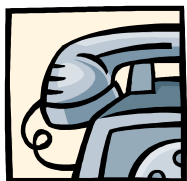
Statistics reveal a frightening picture of elderly abuse in the United



States: According to the National Area Agency on Aging, **1 of every 20 elderly people will be the victim of abuse**—physical abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Only 5% of all elderly abuse cases are reported to authorities.

The problem may get worse as the number of elderly Americans increases: By 2020, the number of people over the age of 65 will reach approximately 52 million in the U.S.

We must recognize the seriousness of this problem and help our seniors by reporting abuse.



This brochure is for general education only. It is not intended to be used to solve individual problems.

Types of Elder Abuse

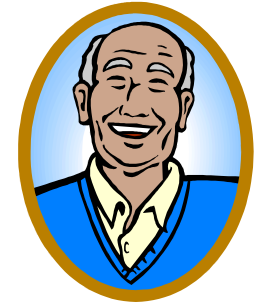
- **Physical Abuse** is the assault or unreasonable confinement of an elderly person
- **Neglect** is the lack of sufficient and appropriate care by caregivers or themselves
- **Exploitation** is the misuse of an elderly person's property or financial resources.



Who Abuses?

Studies indicate that family members most often perpetrate physical abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older persons. Abuse occurs in all classes of society and takes place in cities, small towns, suburbs, and rural areas.

Strategies



Increase public and professional awareness of the occurrence of physical abuse, neglect, and exploitation of the elderly.

Recognize that elderly abuse, which was once thought to be a “nursing home problem,” has emerged into family care settings.

Provide victims of elderly abuse with the ability to recognize the problem and the motivation and support to take steps to remedy the situation.

Encourage the public to report elderly abuse.

About FloridaLawHelp.org

FloridaLawHelp.org is administered by Florida Legal Services, Inc. and is produced in cooperation with Pro Bono Net and the legal services organizations and government agencies throughout Florida and the United States.



The Florida Bar Foundation, with Interest on Trust Accounts program funding, provides support for this service.

Where To Go For Help

If you have reason to believe that an aged person or an adult with a disability is being or has been abused, neglected, or exploited, you should **immediately report such knowledge or suspicion to the Florida Abuse Hotline: 1-800-96-ABUSE**. The Central Abuse Registry of the State of Florida will conduct an investigation within 24 hours of the report.

FloridaLawHelp.org

To locate your local legal aid or legal services office, please visit us on the web at

www.floridalawhelp.org

Your local legal aid or legal services office can be located through either the "Find Local Help" or "Directory" links.

If you don't have access to the internet, consult your local Directory Assistance for the number of the legal aid or legal services office nearest to you.

Special thanks to Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc.

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**We must all take responsibility
for this growing problem**

**1-800-96-ABUSE
(800-962-2873)**