

## Local Resources:

### Statewide Elder Abuse Hotline

1-800-490-8505  
[www.aging.pa.gov](http://www.aging.pa.gov)

### National Center on Elder Abuse

[www.ncea.acl.gov](http://www.ncea.acl.gov)

### Chester County

#### Department of Aging

Toll-Free: 1-800-564-7000  
Local: (610) 344-6350  
[www.chesco.org/486/Protective-Services](http://www.chesco.org/486/Protective-Services)

### Domestic Violence Center of Chester County

Toll-Free: 1-888-711-6270  
Local: (610) 431-1430  
[www.dvcccpa.org](http://www.dvcccpa.org)

### Berks County Department of Aging

(610) 478-6500

### SAFE Berks

Toll-Free: 1-844-789-SAFE  
Text "SAFE BERKS" to 20121  
[www.safeberks.org](http://www.safeberks.org)

**IF YOU ARE IN DANGER,  
CALL 911!**

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## Elder Abuse: "Silent No Longer"



## Information & Resources

**This event brought to you by  
Lions District 14p  
Chester County &  
Berks County, PA**



## What is Elder Abuse?

Elder Abuse is a term used to describe any knowing, intentional, or negligent act by a caregiver or any other person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable adult. Elder abuse can come in various forms:

### Physical/Sexual Abuse

Hitting, pushing, kicking, punching, pinching, biting, unnecessarily restraint, intentionally causing pain, intentional misuse of medication, sexual abuse/exploitation, etc.

### Verbal Abuse

Calling names, put-downs, making fun, embarrassing/humiliating, criticism, etc.

### Emotional Abuse

Threats of harm or abandonment, manipulation, mind games, gaslighting—making you feel crazy, isolation, non-communication, intimidation, control, etc.

### Financial Abuse

Pressure to make or making undue changes to legal, financial documents, theft of or withholding of funds, identity theft, etc.

### Neglect & Self-Neglect

Deprivation of basic needs: food, water, housing, clothing, hygiene, medical care, emotional/social engagement, etc.

**Self-Neglect** involves an older adult, living independently, who is unable/unwilling to care for themselves leading to an environment threatening to health and safety.

## Risk Factors for Elder Abuse

There are some factors that can put an older adult at increased risk for experiencing abuse including:

- An adult child who is still dependent on their older parent for financial assistance or housing—especially in cases where the adult child suffers from mental illness or a substance abuse disorder (addiction).
- A history of domestic violence in the home or family—as families grow and age, present problems of domestic violence often continue.
- Living with others in isolation—prevents likelihood of reporting of abuse.

### PA Statistics on Elder Abuse

In national statistics, 1 in 10 adults 60+ have experienced some form of abuse. In Pennsylvania, since 2016, we have seen a **32% increase** in number of reports of elder abuse—with a **38% increase** in substantiated, or proven, claims of abuse.

- The age group most reported to be in need of protective services in PA were those between the ages of **81–90** and **almost half** of them lived in their own homes.
- **46.8%** of perpetrators of abuse were between the ages of 30–59 and **16.7%** were identified as family members.
- The most common substantiated forms of abuse were: **self-neglect, caregiver neglect, financial exploitation, physical, and emotional abuse.**

## Reporting Abuse

In the state of Pennsylvania, if you work with and suspect abuse of an individual over the age of 60—you are mandated to report it to the appropriate authorities.

### PA Statewide Elder Abuse Hotline

1-800-490-8505

- If you believe an adult is being abuse and their life is in imminent danger, call 911 immediately! Then report directly to protective services.

### To make a report you may need to know:

- Age of the victim
- Address of the victim
- Victim's level of physical/mental capacity
- Date of the incident
- Whether or not there are weapons present in the home, if there is a history of drug/alcohol abuse or domestic violence in the home.
- How the alleged perpetrator might react to a worker coming to the home
- What the best times to visit may be

***Failure to report suspected abuse is a crime.***