

WHAT IS ELDERLY ABUSE?

ELDERLY ABUSE IS THE NEGLECT OR MISTREATMENT OF AN OLDER PERSON, WHO CAN'T OR DOESN'T HAVE THE MEANS TO LOOK AFTER THEMSELVES. THIS KIND OF MISTREATMENT CAN TAKE PLACE IN A PRIVATE HOME OR RETIREMENT HOME FOR OLDER PERSONS, AND PUBLIC SPACES.



PHYSICAL ABUSE

Includes hitting, punching, slapping, burning, pushing, kicking, restraining, false imprisonment/confinement, or giving excessive or improper medication - as well as withholding treatment and medication.

SEXUAL ELDER ABUSE

Forcing an elderly person to take part in any sexual activity without his or her consent, including forcing them to participate in conversations of a sexual nature against their will. This may also include situations where the person is no longer able to give consent.



FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

Involves misappropriation of financial resources by family members, caregivers, or strangers - or the use of financial means to control the older person or facilitate other types of abuse.

EMOTIONAL/ PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE

Identifying something that matters to an older person and using it to force an older person into a particular action. It may take verbal forms such as yelling, name-calling, mocking, constantly criticizing, accusations, blaming and swearing; or nonverbal forms such as ignoring, silence, avoiding or withdrawing affection.



WHAT CAN WE DO TO STOP ELDER ABUSE?

Elder abuse is considered a crime in South Africa. We must speak up when we suspect that an elderly person is being neglected or harmed by their care giver.

HOTLINE NUMBERS TO REPORT ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF OLDER PERSONS

SAPS	10111
The City's Public Emergency Centre	021 480 7700 from a cell phone 107 from a landline
Western Cape Department of Social Development	021 483 5045
Action on Elder Abuse SA	021 426 5255
Halt Elder Abuse Line (HEAL)	0800 00 3081
Age in Action	0800 333 231
SASSA Western Cape (social grant enquiries)	0800 601 011

#STOPELDERABUSE

#reportelderabuse

TO FIND OUT MORE ON THE CITY'S PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY, VISIT

<https://bit.ly/3jlAK4R>



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