

## WHAT IMMEDIATE RELIEF IS AVAILABLE TO THE OLDER PERSON AFTER THE MATTER HAS BEEN REPORTED TO THE POLICE?

Upon receipt of such a report from the social worker, the police official may issue the alleged abuser with a written notice calling upon him/her to leave the home or place of residence of the older person or stop entering such place or having contact with the older person until the matter is dealt with by the court. On the court date, the magistrate will consider all issues raised in the written notice, and may thereafter make the police's eviction of the abuser a court order. The magistrate may also grant a maintenance order against the abuser, where necessary.

## SLOGANS

1. "WE SHOULD PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE INTERESTS AND WELL-BEING OF ALL OLDER PERSONS"
2. "CHILDREN SHOULD LOOK AFTER THEIR PARENTS AS THEY HAD LOOKED AFTER THEM AS CHILDREN"
3. "FAILURE TO REPORT ANY ABUSE OF AN OLDER PERSON AMOUNTS TO A CRIME PUNISHABLE BY THE LAW"

## HOTLINE NUMBERS TO REPORT ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF OLDER PERSONS

SAPS  
**10111**

THE CITY'S PUBLIC EMERGENCY CENTRE  
**021 480 7700** FROM A CELLPHONE  
**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 003 081**

AGE IN ACTION  
**0800 333 231**

SASSA WESTERN CAPE  
(SOCIAL GRANT ENQUIRIES)  
**0800 601 011**



# ABUSE OF OLDER PERSONS



CITY OF CAPE TOWN  
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA  
STAD KAAPSTAD

Making progress possible. Together.

## WHAT IS ABUSE OF AN OLDER PERSON?

Abuse of an older person occurs where any person, in a relationship where there is an expectation of trust, does something that causes harm or distress or is likely to cause harm or distress to an older person, or fails to do something to prevent it.

## WHAT TYPES OF ABUSE AMOUNT TO "ABUSE OF OLDER PERSONS" IN TERMS OF THE OLDER PERSONS ACT, ACT 13 OF 2006?

### PHYSICAL ABUSE:

means any act or threat of physical violence towards an older person, e.g. pushing, clapping, biting, throttling, stabbing, threats with a fist or threats to kill.

Giving excessive or improper medication as well as withholding treatment and medication.

### SEXUAL ABUSE:

means any conduct that violates the sexual integrity of an older person, which includes

sexual penetration by a genital organ or object, flashing of genital organs, compelling an older person to watch a sexual act and the use of sexual slurs against an older person. Forcing the older person to participate in conversations of a sexual nature against their will or any sexual activity without consent, which may include situations where the person is no longer able to give consent.

### EMOTIONAL/PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE:

means any pattern of degrading or humiliating conduct towards an older person, which includes repeated insults, ridicule or name-calling; repeated threats to cause emotional pain; non-verbal forms such as ignoring, silence, avoiding or withdrawing affection; repeated invasion of an older person's privacy, liberty, integrity or security.

### ECONOMIC ABUSE:

includes depriving an older person of economic or financial resources that he/she is entitled to by law, including those that he/she requires out of necessity, e.g. failing to provide money or food to the older person, or when children living with an older person force him/her to pay for the well-being of their children; employing an older person to take care of another person's children without a salary; using the old age pension fund, retirement fund or finances of an older person to pay for another person's expenses without his/her permission.

### SELF-ABUSE/NEGLECT:

The failure to care for him-/herself, abuse of alcohol, drugs and improper diet.

### SIGNS TO LOOK OUT FOR SELF-NEGLECT:

A lack of personal hygiene or cleanliness, dehydration, malnutrition, being underweight, living in dirty conditions, and unable to pay bills or manage medication.

### WHO MUST REPORT ABUSE?

Any person who suspects that an older person has been or is suffering from abuse or abuse-related injury.

### WHERE TO REPORT ABUSE?

It must be immediately reported to the police or the Director General of the Department of Social Development. It may also be reported to a social worker who will then assist in taking action against the abuser.