

# *Signs of* **ELDER ABUSE**

- Withdrawals from bank accounts or transfers between accounts that the older person cannot explain. Bank statements and cancelled checks no longer come to the elder's home. Unpaid bills, eviction notices, or notices to discontinue utilities. Unusual activity in the older person's bank accounts including large, unexplained withdrawals, frequent transfers between accounts or ATM withdrawals.
- Legal documents, such as powers of attorney, which the elder person didn't understand at the time he or she signed them.
- Missing belongings or property.
- Explanations that don't seem to fit the pattern of physical injury. Untreated bedsores, need for medical or dental care, unclean clothing, poor hygiene, overgrown hair and nails, and unusual weight loss.
- Withdrawal from normal activities, unexplained change in alertness, or other unusual behavior.

## *Make a Report*

**CASS COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES  
ADULT SERVICES DIVISION  
1010 2 AVE. S. -4TH FLOOR  
701.462.5462, OPTION #2**

**[HTTPS://WWW.CASSCOUNTYND.GOV/OUR-  
COUNTY/SOCIAL-SERVICES/ADULT-SERVICES-  
DIVISION](https://www.casscountyny.gov/our-county/social-services/adult-services-division)**

**FARGO POLICE DEPARTMENT  
701.235.4493**

**[WWW.FARGOPOLICE.COM](http://WWW.FARGOPOLICE.COM)**

# **ELDER ABUSE**





## TYPES OF ABUSE

Each year, hundreds of thousands of adults over the age of 60 are abused, neglected, or financially exploited. This is called elder abuse.

Abuse can happen in many places, including the older person's home, a family member's house, an assisted living facility, or a nursing home. Elder abuse is an intentional act or failure to act that causes or creates a risk of harm to an older adult. Many seniors don't report the abuse they face even if they're able. Some fear retaliation from the abuser, while others believe that if they turn in their abusers, no one else will take care of them. When the caregivers are their children, they may be ashamed that their children are behaving abusively or blame themselves: "If I'd been a better

parent when they were younger, this wouldn't be happening." Or they just may not want children they love to get into trouble with the law.

Physical abuse occurs when an elder experiences illness, pain, or injury as a result of the intentional use of physical force and includes acts such as hitting, kicking, pushing, slapping, and burning.

Sexual abuse involves forced or unwanted sexual interaction of any kind with an older adult. This may include unwanted sexual contact or penetration or non-contact acts such as sexual harassment.

Emotional or psychological abuse refers to verbal

or nonverbal behaviors that inflict anguish, mental pain, fear, or distress on an older adult. Examples include name calling, humiliating, destroying property, or not letting the older adult see friends and family.

Neglect is the failure to meet an older adult's basic needs. These include food, water, shelter, clothing, hygiene, and essential medical care.

Financial abuse is illegally or improperly using an elder's money, benefits, belongings, property, or assets for the benefit of someone other than the older adult. Examples include taking money from an older adult's account without proper authority, unauthorized credit card use, and changing a will without permission.