

Domestic Violence against the mature adult is a common yet frequently under-recognized problem in our society.

Domestic Elder Abuse verses Caregiver Stress; recognizing the difference. Caregiver stress is not an acceptable excuse for abusive behavior.

Adult Protective Service Agencies are here to help guide and inform you of your rights as a victim of Domestic Elder Abuse. You have the right to make your own decisions and choices. The goal is to provide assistance with the least disruption of lifestyle possible. Your safety and independence in the community is of utmost importance.

ARE YOU BEING ABUSED? Do your loved ones.....

- Threaten to leave, divorce or institutionalize you?
- Steal your money or possessions and take over your finances?
- Treat you like a child and make all major decisions?
- Control what you do, who you see and where you go?
- Touch you inappropriately?
- Deny or create long waits for food, heat, care or medication?
- Not address your medical needs?
- Deny, ignore or ridicule religious and cultural traditions?
- Humiliate, demean or yell insults at you?

If you answered yes to any of these behaviors listed you may

be at risk of/or already experiencing physical abuse by a loved one.

It is not your fault; no one deserves to be abused. Your loved one has issues of power and control. Without help – the abuse probably will not stop and can get worse as time goes on without intervention.

WHAT IS DOMESTIC ELDER ABUSE?

Domestic elder abuse occurs when a person uses physical or emotional abuse, threats, intimidation or harassment to control another person over the age of sixty (60+) with whom they are or have been involved in a family, dating, household or caretaker relationship.

Victims of Domestic Elder Abuse come from all walks of life, cultures, income groups and religions.

PERPETRATORS OF ELDER ABUSE:

Family members are the number one category of abusers making up of 62% of reported cases. Family members usually are spouses, intimate partners or adult children.

Adult Protective Service Agencies are here to help you. You have the right to self-determination. Only 11% of elders actually refuse Adult Protective Services offered to them. In very few cases, elders choose legal action as a means of stopping the abuse. We hope this information helps to dispel any fears or concerns you may have about asking for help.

There is help available to you and the loved one that is hurting you. Talk with someone you trust.

[READ HARRY'S STORY >](#)

Harry, a 72-year-old widow, took in his adult son Tom, after he separated from his wife. Tom has been severely depressed and recently lost his job. Tom has become increasingly short tempered with his father and was getting drunk everyday. While Tom was out, an old friend stopped by for a visit. Harry told his friend that he was becoming fearful of his son. Harry disclosed that he feels like a prisoner in his own home. Tom has taken over control of the house, finances and sole use of his father's car. Tom has denied Harry any access to family or friends. Harry has tried to talk with Tom about their situation. Tom yells at his father and pushes him around. Harry asked his friend not to say anything because things will get better when his son gets back on his feet. The friend agreed and left. When Tom found out that Harry spoke with a friend, he punched him and threatened him with more violence if his father spoke with anyone again.

AGENCIES AVAILABLE FOR ASSISTANCE:

Town of Acushnet

Police: 508-995-5191 Council
on Aging: 508-998-0280

Town of Dartmouth:

Police: 508-910-1700 Council
on Aging: 508-999-4717

Town of Fairhaven

Police: 508-997-7421 Council
on Aging: 508-979-4029

City of New Bedford:

Police: 508-991-6308 Council
on Aging: 508-991-6250

Southcoast Home Care:

508-984-0200

Community Nurses Association:

508-992-6278

ELDER ABUSE HOTLINES
"24 hours a day, 7 days a week"
DIAL 911 for emergencies

Statewide Elder Abuse Hotline:
1-800-922-2275

Disabled Persons Protection
Commission: 1-800-426-9009

Greater New Bedford Women's
Center: 508-999-6636

New Bedford Crisis Center:
508-996-3154

ELDER RESOURCES
"Business Hours"

Coastline Elderly Services, Inc.
508-999-6400

Greater New Bedford Women's
Center: 508-996-3343

Southeastern Massachusetts
Legal Assistance Corporation
(SMLAC): 508-979-7150

Attorney General's Elder Help
Line: 1-888-243-5337

Bristol County District
Attorney's Office: 508-997-0711
Ext. 147

Safeguarding

Our

Seniors

AGING VIOLENCE FREE



Sponsored by:

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