

What is Elder Abuse?

Elder abuse is any action or inaction which causes harm to an older person by a person in a position of trust. The abuser may be a family member, friend, neighbour, or someone providing personal care or professional services to an individual.

Elder Abuse Includes:

Physical Harm

Pushing, shaking, hitting, restraining, and over-medicating

Emotional Harm

Insulting, threatening, humiliating, isolating from family and friends, removal of decision making choices

Neglect

Denial of adequate nutrition, medical attention, shelter, clothing, physical aids such as walkers, glasses, or canes

Sexual Abuse

Unwanted sexual touching, forced sexual intercourse

Financial Abuse

Wrongful use of power of attorney,

improperly withholding pension cheques or other money

How Can You Recognize Elder Abuse?

Elder abuse is wrong. It is a hidden problem not often talked about and may not be easily recognized.

The following are possible signs of abuse or neglect:

Signs of physical abuse

Unexplained cuts, bites, bruises, burns, or fractures

Signs of emotional abuse

Withdrawal, depression, anxiety, fear of family members, friends, or caregivers, forcing unwanted choices

Signs of neglect

Poor hygiene, inappropriate or inadequate clothing, lack of safety precautions, unhealthy appearance

Signs of financial abuse

Missing personal belongings, unusual withdrawals from a senior's bank account, forgery

Where Can You Turn For Help?

You are not alone. You may obtain information or support from a member of the clergy, a social worker, a healthcare service provider, a police officer, senior's centre, financial institution, or lawyer.

Durham Region has organized a special network of community agencies to assist victims of elder abuse. If you would like more information, please contact one of the member agencies listed on the back of this brochure.

Our Vision

To be leaders in the development of an integrated and effective strategy to address elder abuse in Durham Region through prevention, professional network, information sharing, empowerment (support others), and victim resources.

Durham Elder Abuse Network D.E.A.N.

Email Address:

DEAN@region.durham.on.ca

Seniors Bill of Rights

Passed by the Ontario
Legislature on
December 2, 2004

The province of Ontario shall ensure that the following rights of seniors are fully protected and promoted:

- The right to be free from ageism, stereotyping and other discrimination and the right to be ensured that discrimination on these bases is not tolerated.
- The right to be free from abuse of all kinds, financial, physical and emotional, and to be free from neglect and exploitation within their local community or in health care settings.

Important Contact Numbers:

911 For emergency response

Distress Centre - Durham

905-723-4461, Oshawa - 905-433-1121,
Toll Free - 1-800-452-0688

Durham Access to Care - 905-430-3308, Toll Free - 1-800-263-3877

Durham Community Legal Clinic -
905-728-7323, Toll Free - 1-888-297-2202

Victim Services Unit - Durham
Regional Police - 905-579-1520

Durham Region Sexual Assault Care
Centre/ Domestic Violence Care
Centre - 905-668-3050

Or contact your local Senior's
Centre or Community Care Office

Additional Information available from the Internet:

Ontario Network for the Prevention
of Elder Abuse - www.onpea.org

Advocacy Centre for the Elderly
www.advocacycentreelderly.org

Canadian Network for the
Prevention of Elder Abuse
www.cnpea.ca

ELDER ABUSE

LET'S STOP IT



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