

REPORTING ELDER ABUSE AND NEGLECT

According to the National Center on Elder Abuse, only 1 in 14 cases of elder abuse ever come to the attention of authorities.

Tennessee is a mandatory reporting state. If you see abuse — or even suspect that an adult is being abused, neglected or exploited — you must report it. Call the Tennessee Department of Human Services Adult Protective Services unit, toll-free at **888-277-8366**.

WHO SHOULD I TELL?

If the abuse is happening now, call 911.

If you suspect elder or adult abuse, call Adult Protective Services at **888-277-8366**.

If the abuse is physical, call Tennessee Domestic Violence Hotline at **800-356-6767**.



WARNING SIGNS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE

Bruising, especially in the torso or head; frequent injuries from accidents; broken eyeglasses or frames; caregiver's refusal to allow visitors alone with the older person.

WARNING SIGNS OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Isolation of the older person or refusing to allow visits alone with the senior; observed threatening or belittling of the older person by the caregiver.

WARNING SIGNS OF NEGLECT

Unusual weight loss; malnutrition; dehydration; untreated physical problems; unsafe and unsanitary living conditions such as dirt, vermin, soiled clothes and bedding; inappropriate clothing for the weather; desertion or abandonment of the older person in a public place.

WARNING SIGNS OF FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

Significant withdrawals from the vulnerable adult's accounts; sudden changes in their financial circumstances; valuable items or cash missing from their home; increase in junk mail soliciting purchases or payments for sweepstakes money; neglect of the victim, such as no food in the home; and maintenance and repairs of the home are ignored.

