

## Adult abuse is hidden.

It is a crime that thrives in silence. Adult abuse exists in every community and every neighborhood, rich and poor. Adult children and grandchildren are often abusers.

For every case of abuse reported, statistics say that as many as four cases go unreported. This means the majority of vulnerable adults being harmed continue to suffer—often without any way of getting help.

## Report suspected abuse to:

### Senior & Disabled Services

(541) 682-4038  
1-800-4038 (Toll Free)

### Lane County

Developmental Disabilities Services  
(541) 682-3884

### Lane County Behavioral Health

(541) 682-3608

### White Bird Clinic

24-Hour Crisis Line  
(541) 687-4000



## What you need to know about Vulnerable Adult Abuse



**SENIOR & DISABLED SERVICES**  
A DIVISION OF LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

## Adult Abuse is defined as the

Physical  
Sexual  
Financial  
Emotional  
Neglect

of the basic needs of elderly person or an adult with physical or developmental disabilities or mental illness, by a family member or care giver, which results in harm to that individual.

## Who should report abuse?

Everyone should report abuse. But Oregon Law requires certain groups to report suspected abuse.

## Mandatory Reporters

- Medical Professionals
- Employees of government agencies
- Law Enforcement Officers
- Clergy
- Firefighters
- Legal Council, guardians and family nursing facility residents

## DO's for family and friends:

- Respect and honor ALL people, regardless of age or disability.
- Report suspected abuse or self-neglect. Visit regularly, monitor the wellbeing of the adult.
- Help keep track of medications and doctors visits.
- Report when something looks suspicious or sounds wrong.

## DON'Ts for vulnerable adults:

- Don't live with a person who has a background of violence or drug/alcohol abuse.
- Don't be ashamed to tell others if you are abused, neglected or mistreated.
- Don't leave cash or valuables lying around.
- Don't sign a document unless you know what you are signing.
- Don't give friends or family money you need to live on.
- Don't give out personal or financial information over the phone. Never give bank account numbers or social security numbers over the phone.

## Physical

Non-accidental use of force that results in bodily injury, pain, or impairment. This includes, but is not limited to, being slapped, burned, cut, bruised or improperly physically restrained.

### *Some warning signs include:*

- Sudden changes in behavior.
- Broken eye glasses
- Wounds, punctures, cuts or bleeding
- Bruises or welts
- Broken bones

## Sexual

Sexual contact with a non-consenting adult or with an adult considered incapable of consenting to a sexual act.

### *Some warning signs include:*

- Urinary irritation, injury or infection
- Presence of a sexually transmitted disease.
- Frequent, unexplained physical illness.

## Neglect

Care givers are responsible for providing reasonable care to adults. Failure to protect basic needs could constitute neglect.

### *Signs of neglect include:*

- Lack of basic needs: consistent hunger, poor hygiene, dehydration, inappropriate dress.
- Regularly displays fatigue, listlessness.
- Person found wandering.
- Abandonment report, no caregiver at home.
- Lack of needed eyeglasses, dentures or hearing aides.

### *Some adults fail to provide for themselves. Warning signs of SELF-NEGLECT include:*

- Unable to manage personal finances.
- Unable to manage personal care, shopping, meal preparation, housework.
- Animal or insect infestation.
- Unable to tend to medical conditions.
- Changes in intellectual functioning.

## Financial

Financial abuse is the theft or misuse of an adults money or personal property by a care giver or person in a position of trust with an adult.

### *Some warning signs include:*

- Unexplained disappearance of funds or valuables.
- Dependant relationship (e.g. adult child is financially dependant upon the older person, or the older person is dependent for care giving by alleged abuser.)
- Transfer of property, savings, etc.
- Depleted bank account or unexplained poor cash flow.
- Excessive payment for care and/or services.
- Change in Payee, Power of Attorney, Will.
- Caregiver is overly frugal.
- Chronic failure to pay bills.
- Signature on checks that do not resemble client's signature.
- Client reports signing papers and doesn't know what was signed.

## Emotional

This is the willful infliction of mental suffering on an adult by a person in a position of trust. Psychological or emotional abuse includes verbal assaults, threats, instilling fear, humiliation, intimidation, or isolation of the individual.

### *Some warning signs of emotional abuse are:*

- Isolated from others.
- Depression/Withdrawal
- Low self-esteem.
- Feelings of shame and guilt.
- Frequent crying.
- Overly passive/compliant.
- Discomfort or nervousness around caregiver or relative.
- Suicide attempts or discussion
- Fearfulness