

## WOULD YOU RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF ELDER ABUSE?

What is Elder Abuse, Exploitation and Neglect? Abuse is any repeated behavior used to control you physically, sexually or emotionally. Neglect is a caregiver's refusal to provide for your safety, physical, or emotional needs. Exploitation is stealing money or property or using money as a way to maintain control.

Elder Abuse can happen to anyone! Regardless of your race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.

You may be more at risk to experience abuse because you may...

- Not be able to defend yourself
- Be isolated
- Be less able to escape
- Be dependent on others
- Fear that you may not be taken seriously
- Fear what could happen to you if you report abuse

Elder Abuse usually happens by people you love, trust and rely on such as adult children, spouse/partner, grandchildren or other family members, friends & neighbors, and other people who regularly care for you.

Physical. Emotional. Sexual. Financial. Neglect.



## RESOURCES

### Vera House 24-Hour Crisis & Support Line:

☎ 315-468-3260 and  
☎ TTY 315-484-7263  
[www.verahouse.org](http://www.verahouse.org)

### Onondaga County Adult and Long Term Care Services:

Adult Protective Services  
☎ 315-435-2815

[www.ongov.net/adult/protective.html](http://www.ongov.net/adult/protective.html)

Office for Aging  
☎ 315-435-2362

[www.ongov.net/aging](http://www.ongov.net/aging)

### 2-1-1 CNY:

☎ Call 211 or 1-844-245-1922  
[www.211cny.com](http://www.211cny.com)

### In Case of Emergency Call 911



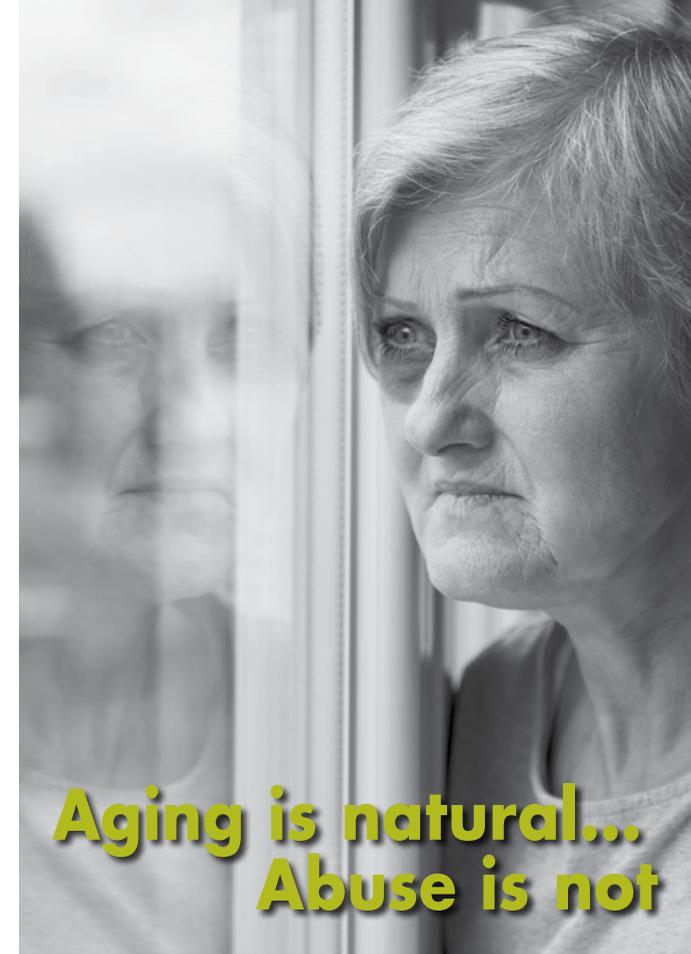
6181 Thompson Road, Suite 100  
Syracuse, NY 13206

Ph: 315-425-0818 | Fax: 315-425-8942

[www.verahouse.org](http://www.verahouse.org)



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**Aging is natural...  
Abuse is not**

ELDER ABUSE:

Physical. Emotional. Sexual. Financial. Neglect.



a Division of



**24-hour Hotline**

☎ **315-468-3260**

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Unexplained injuries, bruises and burns
- Excessive fears, withdrawal, agitation
- Sudden inability to pay bills, buy food or personal items
- Isolation and withdrawal from people and activities
- Changes in appetite; unusual weight gain or loss
- Poor personal hygiene
- Unaware of personal finances
- Changes in behavior around a family member/caregiver

Elder Abuse can occur anywhere, but most often goes undetected at home.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Elder Abuse is an under-recognized problem with consequences that can be devastating and even life-threatening.
- Elder Abuse includes physical, emotional and sexual abuse, caregiver neglect, and financial exploitation.
- 90% of Elder Abuse happens at the hands of family members.
- Elderly persons are abused at a disproportionately higher rate than younger adults; 14% of adults over 60 have been abused, and this number grows to 50% for individuals with dementia.
- A recent New York State prevalence study of Elder Abuse determined that only 1 of approximately 24 incidents comes to the attention of authorities.
- Billions of dollars are lost annually to Elder Financial Exploitation.

*Vera House is committed to ensuring our programs and services are welcoming to everyone.*



## EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Would you like to learn more about the problems of Elder Abuse? Presentations can be tailored to senior groups, community organizations and professionals.

Topics include:

- Types of Abuse
- Indicators of Abuse
- Risk Factors
- Barriers to Reporting
- Intervention
- Community Resources

If you are interested in having an Elder Abuse presentation please call Vera House at 315-425-0818.



# ***Aging is natural... Abuse is not!***