

Stopping Elder Abuse



Elder abuse can happen to any senior citizen... anytime, anywhere. It can occur in a home or long-term care facility. It can be committed by healthcare professionals or family caregivers. Often, the abuse is kept hidden behind closed doors. Our older adults deserve to feel safe and cared for. *They deserve honor and respect... not abuse.*

Recognizing Elder Abuse

Elder abuse is not always physical. It can present itself in many forms, including:

- **Abandonment** – caregiver deserting an older adult
- **Abuse** – pushing, slapping, punching, verbally intimidating or sexually assaulting an older adult
- **Financial exploitation** – taking money or possessions from an older adult without permission or best interests; misusing a senior's assets or resources
- **Neglect** – depriving an older adult of goods or services needed to maintain health and safety or ignoring the well-being of an older adult who is no longer able to care for himself or herself

How Does the Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging Help?

We take reports on suspected elder abuse and investigate these reports under the Older Adults Protective Services Act. A professional investigator will determine whether the older adult is in need of Protective Services. Protective Services will also assist the older adult in securing a safe environment and making sure his or her needs are met.

What Can You Do?

Protective Services cannot protect older adults without the willingness of people to report suspected abuse. If you know of an older adult who is being abused in any way...or if you think you are being abused in any way, by anyone... call us. We can help...24 hours/7 days a week.

**Statewide elder abuse hotline
1-800-490-8505**

**To report elder abuse or
for more information, contact:**



Area Agency on Aging

**200 Adams Ave. • 3rd Floor
Scranton, PA 18503
Ph: 570-963-6740
Fax: 570-963-6401**

Or visit us under
the Departments/Agencies section
at www.lackawannacounty.org.