

What Is Elder Abuse?

There are three basic categories of elder abuse: domestic, institutional, and self-neglect. Domestic elder abuse refers to maltreatment of an older person residing in his/her own home or the home of a caregiver. Institutional abuse refers to the maltreatment of an older person residing in a residential facility for older persons, e.g., a nursing home, board and care home, foster home, or group home. Self-neglect refers to the conduct of an older person living alone which threatens his/her own health or safety.

The term "adult abuse" or "elder abuse" includes a wide variety of abusive behaviors, including:

- **PHYSICAL ABUSE** - the intentional infliction of physical pain or injury.
- **MENTAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE** - the intentional infliction of mental anguish by threat, intimidation, humiliation or other means.
- **SEXUAL ABUSE** - unwanted sexual activity.
- **NEGLECT** - the lack of necessary assistance to keep physically and mentally healthy.
- **SELF-NEGLECT** - the failure to provide self with the necessities of life, such as food, clothing, shelter, needed medical care and reasonable financial management.
- **FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION** - the illegal use of an incapacitated adult's resources for another's profit or advantage.

Resident's Rights

Residents of long-term care facilities have certain rights guaranteed by federal and state law and regulations.

1. To be informed of your rights, as well as the rules and regulations governing your care, conduct and responsibilities.
2. To be informed of available services and related charges.
3. To be informed of your medical condition and to be involved in planning your treatment.
4. To be informed of reasons for transfer or discharge and to be given reasonable advance notice.
5. To voice grievances and recommend changes in policy.
6. To manage your personal financial affairs.
7. To be free from mental and physical abuse and to be free from unauthorized chemical and physical restraints.
8. To have confidential treatment of your personal and medical records and approval or refusal of their release.
9. To be treated with recognition of your dignity, individuality, and privacy.
10. To not be required to perform services for the facility.
11. To have private communication with persons of your choice and to send and receive unopened mail.
12. To participate in social, religious, and community activities.
13. To maintain and use personal clothing and possessions as space permits.
14. To have privacy for visits with your spouse.
15. To have the rights and responsibilities of residents available in an easily accessible place in the facility. Included will be the telephone number for the LOA Area Agency on Aging, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, regulatory agencies, protective services and advocacy agencies.