



## Material/Financial Abuse

Misuse of a senior's money, property, or possessions through theft, scam, or fraud.

### Signs:

- Things/money go missing
- Unusual banking activities
- Older adult has signed “papers” without full understanding or under unusual conditions
- Older adult shows signs of neglect or lack of money for needed items
- Older adult is no longer able to pay bills

### Examples:

- Fraud
- Forgery and theft
- Misuse by a person given the power to act or sign for the senior
- Obtaining money/things by threat

## Places to go for help include:

To contact your Regional Health Authority to report an adult who may be at risk of abuse or neglect and **who does not understand or appreciate that risk**, please call:

1-855-376-4957

(no long distance charges will apply)

A senior can connect with a social worker to find out about available **community supports** by calling:

### Eastern Health

- o Bonavista: 468-1001
- o Clarenville: 466-5700
- o Grand Bank: 832-1602
- o Marystown: 279-7900
- o Rural Avalon: 786-5217
- o St. John's: 752-4835 for over age 65  
(for under age 65 call 752-4717)

Central Health: 1-833-210-8491

Western Health: 637-2280

Labrador-Grenfell Health: 1-833-284-4751

*(continued on back)*

## Sexual Abuse

Unwanted touching of or sexual activity with a senior without his/her consent or full knowledge. Sexual abuse of older persons is often ignored because seniors are not thought of as being sexual.

### Signs:

- Pain, swelling, or bleeding in the genital or anal area
- Other bruising, grip marks, or wounds that point to sexual assault
- Fear of being near or alone with a certain person

### Examples:

- Sexual abuse can range from unwanted kissing or fondling to forced sexual acts
- Unwanted verbal (jokes, rude remarks) or visual acts (showing private parts or pornography)

## Emotional Abuse

Any word or act that decreases an older adult's sense of self-worth.

### Signs:

- Shows fear (around the abuser)
- May be unsettled and upset
- Isolated
- Puts herself/himself down
- Has feelings of guilt and blame
- Shows signs of depression, low energy, changes in sleeping or eating patterns, feeling hopeless

### Examples:

- Jokes about the older person
- Frightens the senior on purpose
- Treats the senior like a child
- Attacks senior's pride/dignity
- Threatens or takes away love and affection or emotional support
- Prevents a senior from practising his/her religion (for example, won't allow him/her to go to church)

## Neglect

Failure to meet the needs of an older adult who cannot meet these needs on his/her own.

**Active Neglect** is refusing to provide for the basic needs and/or care of an older adult.

**Passive Neglect** is the failure to provide care to a senior because of a lack of experience, information, or ability.

**Self Neglect** occurs when a senior does not care for himself/herself due to choice, poor health (mind or body), loss of friends/relatives, depression.

### Signs:

- Dirty clothing, unclean hair, uncut nails, or body odour
- Poorly kept living space
- Lack of food in the cupboards
- Dehydration or malnutrition
- “Invisible” homelessness, such as when a senior sleeps on a couch or in a garage

### Examples:

Neglect is when a caregiver doesn't:

- Provide basic needs like food, water, suitable clothing, or safe and clean shelter
- Attend to personal care like washing
- Provide social contact

## Physical Abuse

Causing injury, pain, or discomfort through violence or rough handling.

### Signs:

- Repeated “accidents”
- Injury for which the reason given does not make sense
- Unexplained injuries such as bruises, burns, cuts, swelling, grip or rope marks

### Examples:

- Slapping, pushing, pinching, or kicking
- Rough handling
- Giving too much or too little medication
- Confining someone to a bed, chair or room