

How Can I Break the Silence?

Anyone who suspects that an older person is being mistreated by someone should contact one of the following agencies:

- Arizona Adult Protective Services
Hotline: 1-877-767-2385
TDD: 1-877-815-8390
Online: www.azdes.gov/reportadultabuse
- Local Law Enforcement Agencies

For more information about elder abuse prevention resources in your area, contact your local Area Agency on Aging:

- Region I - Maricopa County
(24 Hour *Senior* HELP LINE)
(602) 264-HELP (4357) or 1-888-783-7500
- Region II - Pima County (520) 790-7262
- Region III - Apache, Navajo, Coconino & Yavapai Counties (928) 774-1894
- Region IV - Yuma, Mohave & La Paz Counties (928) 782-1886
- Region V - Pinal & Gila Counties (520) 836-2758
- Region VI - Graham, Greenlee, Cochise & Santa Cruz Counties (520) 432-5301
- Region VII - Navajo Nation (928) 871-6868
- Region VIII - Inter-Tribal Council (602) 258-4822

Elder Abuse and Neglect Program services are provided through local community agencies. Reports may also be made directly to the elder abuse provider agency where the older person resides.

For additional information about Break the Silence, visit the website for the Office of the Attorney General at www.azag.gov.

State of Arizona



Arizona Elder Abuse Coalition



Break the Silence

Report Elder Abuse

Adult Protective Services

1-877-767-2385

TDD: 1-877-815-8390

www.azdes.gov/reportadultabuse

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What is Elder Abuse?

Abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of the elderly is a national tragedy we can all help prevent. Unfortunately, there are those who would take advantage of the most vulnerable segment of our population for their own gain. By identifying and reporting elder abuse, we can all make a difference. But what constitutes elder abuse?

Abuse, neglect, and exploitation of the elderly is defined by Arizona law as follows:

Abuse:

- a) intentional infliction of physical harm
- b) injury caused by negligent acts or omissions
- c) unreasonable confinement
- d) sexual abuse or sexual assault.

Neglect:

a pattern of conduct without the person's informed consent resulting in deprivation of food, water, medication, medical services, shelter, cooling, heating, or other services necessary to maintain minimum physical or mental health.

Exploitation:

the illegal or improper use of an incapacitated or vulnerable adult or his/her resources for another's profit or advantage.

Who is at Risk?

People who abuse and exploit the elderly do not discriminate. Their abuse affects people in every segment of society, all ethnic and social backgrounds, and both men and women. An elder abuse victim may be your neighbor, friend or family member. It is estimated that only one in every 14 cases of elder abuse is reported.

What Should I Do If I Suspect Elder Abuse?

If you suspect someone you know is the victim of abuse, you can help by reporting it. From July 2007 to June 2008, Arizona Adult Protective Services received 9592 reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation of vulnerable adults. These reports are helping to break the silence of elder abuse and your report can make a difference.

Reporting elder abuse gives victims the opportunity to receive the help they need to stop the abuse and reduce the risk of future abuse.

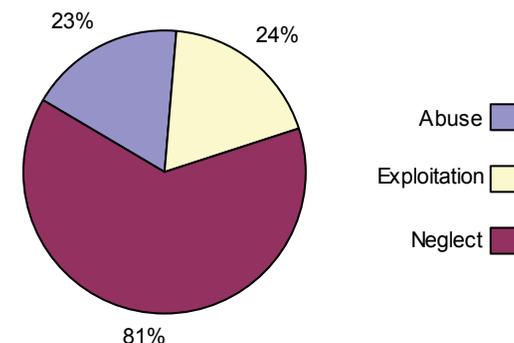
→ Mandated Reporters

Certain professionals are required by law to report suspected abuse, neglect and exploitation of vulnerable or incapacitated adults. Among those required to report suspected abuse are: doctors, psychologists, dentists, social service workers and law enforcement personnel and persons with responsibility for a person's financial affairs like lawyers, accountants, and trustees.

→ Voluntary Reporters

Any person can voluntarily report. By law, anyone making an elder abuse report in good faith has civil and criminal immunity from liability.

Distribution of APS Investigations



Percentages may reflect investigations involving more than one allegation

Where Do I Report?

Reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation should be made to the Adult Protective Services Hotline at 1-877-767-2385 or to local law enforcement agencies.

Reports can also be made online at: www.azdes.gov/reportadultabuse.

Consequences of Abusing the Elderly

In addition to being subjected to criminal and or civil liability, anyone found to have abused, neglected or exploited the elderly at the conclusion of an administrative hearing will have their names forwarded to a public registry which will remain on record for 10 years. This will hopefully serve as a deterrent for those who might abuse or exploit the elderly.