

Hotlines

For Immediate Help Call 911 or Your Local Police

National Domestic Violence Hotline
800-799-SAFE (7233) | 800-787-3225 (TTY)
www.thehotline.org

National Sexual Assault Hotline
800-656-HOPE (4673)
www.rainn.org

Arizona Area Agency on Aging DOVES Program
24-hour Senior HELPLINE
Toll free 1-888-783-7500
602-264-HELP (4357)
For HOH, text 520-775-1899

Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (ACESDV)
602-279-2900 | 800-782-6400
SMS Text: 520-720-3383
AZ Relay Service: 711
acesdv.org/helpline

This project was supported by #2020-EW-AX-K004 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, US Department of Justice.

The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women. For more information or questions, please contact the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) Division of Community Assistance and Development (DCAD).

For more info call (602) 542-4791 or visit <https://des.az.gov/services>.

For More Information

National Center on Elder Abuse
855-500-3537
ncea.acl.gov

National Center on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL)
608-255-0539
www.ncall.us

Safe Havens
617-951-3980
www.interfaithpartners.org

To report elder abuse to Adult Protective Services
877-767-2385
<https://des.az.gov/services/basic-needs/adult-protective-services>



The OVW Arizona Abuse in Later Life Grant, in coordination with the Area Agency on Aging DOVES program, can use OVW grant funds to provide victims of late life abuse (50+) in Maricopa County emergency housing for up to 10 days including food, clothing and incidentals if appropriate. Please call the 24-hour Senior HELPLINE for more information.

For more information about the Abuse in Later Life grant, please visit des.az.gov/abuse-in-later-life.

Equal Opportunity Employer / Program • Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities • To request this document in alternative format or for further information about this policy, contact the Division of Aging and Adult Services at 602-542-4446; TTY/ TDD Services 7-1-1
DVS-1008A PAMENG (09/24)



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona



Abuse In Later Life

Where Faith and Safety Meet

Faith Based Support for Victims of Abuse (50+)

Create a collaborative community preventing and responding to victims of late life abuse while maintaining their safety, dignity, and autonomy.

What is elder abuse?

Elder Abuse occurs when an older adult is willfully neglected or abused. The abuse may be physical, sexual, emotional, verbal, spiritual, or financial.

Elder Abuse can include domestic and sexual violence and affects men and women of all faiths, ethnic backgrounds, and social status. Social isolation, some illnesses, and disabilities that result from aging may make an older adult more vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

Elder Abuse occurs most frequently in private homes, but can also occur in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Red Flags To Look For

Victims of elder abuse may exhibit some of the following; however, absence of these does not mean the elder isn't being abused.

- Has unexplained or frequent physical injuries
- Speaks of being afraid or "walking on eggshells"
- Makes veiled disclosures, such as "my son has a temper" or "my husband makes me do things I don't want to do"
- Is isolated or unable to meet alone
- Is living in unsafe, unsanitary, or hazardous conditions
- Continually says no to one-on-one meetings, is isolated, or is unable to meet alone
- Makes unusual financial transactions

Adapted from "Break the Silence: What Every Faith Community Needs to Know About Elder Abuse," August 2006.



How does abuse happen?

Abusers can be family members, intimate partners, caretakers (paid or volunteer), friends, neighbors, bankers, lawyers, or another person in a position of influence or authority with an expectation of trust.

Through the ages, faith communities have valued older adults, relied on their wisdom, and respected the breadth of their life experiences. Faith communities have often led the way in supporting and advocating for older adults. Many older adults turn to their faith for help when they are faced with the crisis of elder abuse. They know and trust their faith community leaders and members.

If you are a faith community leader or member, you have a critical role to play because victims may turn to you for help. Be alert for the signs of elder abuse. Learn to respond safely and effectively.

Below are some guidelines for response:

- Listen with compassion.
- Believe the victim when they disclose.
- Thank the victim for trusting you with their trauma.
- Affirm that the abuse is not the victim's fault.
- Prioritize the victim's safety.
- Provide spiritual care and resources. Honor the victim's decisions, even if they change their mind.
- Couples or family counseling can be dangerous and is **NOT** recommended. If the victim insists, please contact your local domestic violence service provider for more information.
- Maintain confidentiality.
- Be familiar with your state's laws about faith leaders and abuse reporting requirements.
- Help the victim connect to a domestic violence, sexual assault, or elder abuse advocate or service-providing agency that can provide safety planning and support.
- Follow up with continued, non-judgmental support.

