

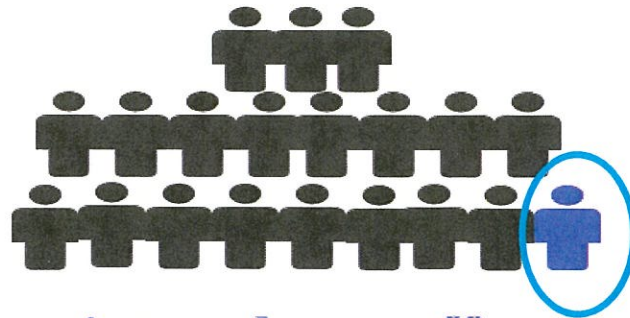
ABUSE HURTS AT ANY AGE

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND OLDER DELAWAREANS



1 in 10 older adults living at home experience abuse and/or neglect each year.

Only **1** out of **20** cases are reported.



Most people who experience abuse suffer more than one type of mistreatment: financial, physical, neglect, isolation.

Elders who are abused may experience...

- Embarrassment
- Economic loss
- Spiritual and emotional trauma
- Institutionalization
- Loss of independence
- Poor quality of life
- Pain or injury
- Premature death



Substance abuse is a common factor.



Who usually abuses older people?

Adult Children 49%
Spouses /Partners 15%
Other Relatives 36%



Why don't people report?

- Shame
- Fear
- Isolation
- Inability to report
- Unaware abuse is happening
- Unaware of where to find help

If you suspect an older Delawarean is being abused, neglected, or exploited, call 1 800 223 9074
If someone is in immediate danger, call 911.

Supportive services reduce the longterm harm:

- Healthcare
- Counseling
- Safe, affordable housing
- Legal services
- Transportation

Resources for Older Delawareans

Delaware Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

The ADRC is a one stop access point for information and services to help older Delawareans, adults with physical disabilities and caregivers.

Phone: 1-800-223-9074

For Delaware Relay services, dial 711

Adult Protective Services - Delaware Health and Social Services

The Adult Protective Service (APS) Program responds to cases of suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of impaired adults. Specifically, the program serves persons who are aged 18 or over, who have a physical or mental impairment, and who are not living in a long term care facility (for example, a nursing home). The APS program is staffed by trained social workers who provide assistance.

To report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation of an older Delawarean call 1-800-223-9074

Reports can be made anonymously.

Delaware Center for Justice Adult Victim Services Program

The Adult Victim Services Program assists adults age 50+ who lives in New Castle County and who are victims of crime. Services include: on-site mobile therapy; Counseling; Home visits; accompaniment to court, medical facility, law offices, etc.; long term follow up and support; assistance with filing for Victims' Compensation Assistance; and referrals to other agencies and services.

Phone: 302-658-7174 ext. 12

Delaware's Senior Legal Hotline

The Senior Legal Hotline is a legal advice hotline for Delawareans over 60 years of age.

New Castle County 302-478-8850

Kent and Sussex Counties 1-888-225-0582

Delaware State Police Victim Centers

The statewide Victim Centers are available 24 hours a day to assist crime victims and survivors of sudden deaths. Services include: emergency crisis intervention; information and referrals for appropriate social service agencies; court accompaniment follow up contacts, calls, letters and/or home visits; assistance with filing for emergency financial assistance; and landlord/employer intervention.

Statewide: 1-800-VICTIM-1 (1-800-842-8461)

Outside Delaware: 302-659-6823

Elder Law Program of the Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. (CLASI)

The Elder Law Program provides free legal assistance to Delawareans age 60 and over. Services include: drafting Powers of Attorney and Advance Health Care Directives; assistance with consumer problems; housing problems such as eviction, unsafe housing conditions and lockouts; as well as assisting with issues involving public benefits such as Medicaid and Social Security.

New Castle County 302-575-0060

Kent County

302-674-8500

Sussex County 302-856-0038



Prepared by: The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council Elderly and Domestic Violence Committee
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https://dvcc.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/87/2017/06/combined_ElderDVReportandDIAC.pdf