



ELDER ABUSE

NEIGHBORHOOD HOME
HEALTH SERVICES, INC.



TYPES OF ABUSES

- PHYSICAL
- SEXUAL
- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- PSYCHOLOGICAL
- FINANCIAL
- NEGLECT
- SELF-NEGLECT
- VIOLATION OF RIGHTS



INDICATORS OF ABUSE

- Indicators are signs or clues that abuse has occurred, or that it is likely to occur.
- Some of the indicators listed on this presentation can be explained by other causes; however, when the following indicators are present and cannot be explained by other causes, they may be **“red flags.”**



PHYSICAL & SEXUAL ABUSE

- Broken bones, sprains and fractures
- Burns from cigarettes, appliances or hot water
- Cuts, scrapes or scratches
- Rope or strap marks on hands, arms or legs
- Bleeding from the mouth, nose, anus or other body openings
- Matching bruises on both arms
- Pain, irritation or bleeding from the vaginal or anal areas
- Bruises on genitals or inner thighs
- Torn, stained or bloody underclothing
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Inappropriate sex roles or relationships between an older person and someone else
- Inappropriate, unusual or aggressive sexual behavior by the older person



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Domestic violence amongst family members can take many forms. It may include emotional abuse, economic abuse, sexual abuse, threats, using the threat of removing children, using male privilege, intimidation, isolation, and other behaviors used to maintain fear, intimidation, and power.
- Acts of domestic violence are categorized into psychological battering, physical battering, or sexual abuse.
- Psychological Battering can include constant verbal abuse, harassment, excessive possessiveness, isolating the woman from friends and family, deprivation of physical and economic resources, and destruction of personal property.



PSYCHOLOGICAL & FINANCIAL ABUSE

- The caregiver isolates the elder physically by refusing to let him see or speak to others
- The caregiver isolates the elder emotionally by not speaking to, touching or comforting him
- The elder exhibits any of the following:
 - Stress-related conditions such as high blood pressure
 - Sleeping problems such as nightmares or sleeplessness
 - Unpaid bills, eviction notices or notices that the older person's heat, light or water will be shut off
 - A new "best friend" who isolates the older person, encourages her to give him gifts, or moves in with her
 - Unusual, unexplained activity in the older person's bank accounts, including large withdrawals, frequent transfers between accounts, or automatic teller machine (ATM) withdrawals, when the person cannot leave his home



NEGLECT & SELF NEGLECT

- Absence of necessities such as food, water or heat
- Lack of utilities, adequate space or ventilation
- Animal or insect infestations
- Signs of medication mismanagement, including empty or unmarked bottles or outdated prescriptions



REPORTING

- THE AIDE WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO DOCUMENT THE ISSUE OR EVENT ON AN INCIDENT REPORT FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
- ADMINISTRATOR AND OPERATIONS DIRECTOR COMPLETE FILING REPORTS AND WARN THE PROPER AUTHORITIES.



ALWAYS! ALWAYS! ALWAYS!

- Always get receipts for purchases you make for your client.
- Never accept gifts from clients or family members.
- Never initiate or respond to sexual advances regardless of the client's cognitive status, receptiveness or persistence.
- If a client refuses needed help or assistance, report it to your supervisor.
- Never use threatening or aggressive behavior toward your client even if they have done so toward you.
- If other family members interfere with your work or make demands on you, politely explain to them that your responsibility is to the older family member.