



How can I help?

Intervene. Do not ignore the signs of abuse. Enough is Enough! If you suspect that someone in your community of faith is a victim of abuse, neglect or financial exploitation, call:

► Illinois Department on Aging 24-Hour
Adult Protective Services Hotline:
1-866-800-1409

The Adult Protective Services Program helps determine services available through local provider agencies. Reports may also be made directly to the Adult Protective Services Provider Agency where the individual lives.

To find a local provider agency, visit:
<http://www.illinois.gov/aging/ProtectionAdvocacy/Pages/abuse.aspx>, click on Provider Agencies.

Confidential

All reports are kept confidential, and anonymous reports are accepted.

State of Illinois
Department on Aging
One Natural Resources Way, Suite 100
Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
Senior HelpLine: 1-800-252-8966
1-888-206-1327 (TTY)

The Illinois Department on Aging does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in programs or activities in compliance with appropriate State and Federal statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, call the Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966, 1-888-206-1327 (TTY).

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What every faith community needs to know about adult abuse



ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!



The bond between individuals and their communities of faith is a strong one. So it follows that this tie can be used to support the individual in crisis. Members of the community of faith have long expressed respect for their older adults and adults with disabilities with programs for the home-bound, transportation, meals and other social supports. Prevention of abuse should be included on this list of commitments. Be alert to signs of abuse, neglect and financial exploitation... the individuals in your community need you.

What is abuse?

There are many types of abuse...

- ▶ **Physical Abuse** means inflicting physical pain or injury upon an adult.
- ▶ **Sexual Abuse** means touching, fondling, intercourse or any other sexual activity with an adult when the adult is unable to understand, unwilling to consent, threatened or physically forced.
- ▶ **Emotional Abuse** means verbal assaults, threats of maltreatment, harassment or intimidation.
- ▶ **Confinement** means restraining or isolating an adult, other than for medical reasons.
- ▶ **Passive Neglect** means the caregiver's failure to provide an adult with life's necessities, including, but not limited to, food, clothing, shelter or medical care.
- ▶ **Willful Deprivation** means deliberately denying an adult's medication, medical care, shelter, food, a therapeutic device or other physical assistance, and thereby exposing that person to the risk of physical, mental or emotional harm – except when the adult has expressed an intent to forego such care.
- ▶ **Financial Exploitation** means the misuse or withholding of an adult's resources by another, to the disadvantage of the adult or the profit or advantage of someone else.



ENOUGH_{is} ENOUGH!

Report Abuse of Older Adults
and Adults with Disabilities

Frequently Asked Questions

Who are the abusers?

The majority of abusers are family members. Other abusers include caregivers (paid and volunteer), "friends," neighbors, fiduciaries, bankers, lawyers and others.

Who are the abused?

Men and women of all ethnic backgrounds and social status can be victimized by abuse. Social isolation, a disability or other condition or impairment (such as dementia or Alzheimer's disease) are factors that may make an adult more vulnerable to abuse.

If I report my suspicions of abuse, will I harm my relationship with the adult who is part of my faith community?

Even if you think the adult or the abuser will know it was you who made the report, consider that those who are abused often tell someone about the abuse because they know they need help. If you do not report the abuse, you are sending a message to the adult that what is happening to them is not serious.

I am worried that a member of my faith community is at risk of abuse, but nothing has happened yet. Is there anything I can do to help prevent the abuse?

Preventing abuse before it begins is always the preferred course of action. Find some time to meet alone with the adult and explain your concerns.

Let him or her know that you offer your support, should it ever be needed.