

Stop Elder Abuse

Keep It On Your Radar Screen

R - Recognize the Signs of Elder Abuse - Does the elderly person show evidence of physical abuse, fear, anxiety, a misuse or lack of medications, food, liquids, heat or medical care?

A - Ask Questions in Private - Talk with the elderly person alone and in private. An elderly person may be ashamed or too fearful to disclose information in front of family or caregivers.

D - Document Your Findings - Write a report and take photographs of any injuries or living conditions that may indicate abuse or neglect.

A - Assure Access to Safety - If the elderly person is in danger where they live, take immediate action.* If the concern is less urgent, provide referral information. (See back.)

R- Review Your Findings and Return - Follow-up with visits to make sure the situation hasn't worsened.

* **In an emergency/crisis**, attempt to convince the person of the need to be seen at a hospital. Alert the first responder and hospital of the conditions and basis for concern.

Under limited circumstances, you may take someone into custody against their will. Refer to:

NH RSA 135-C:27 Involuntary Emergency Admission,

or

NH RSA 172-B:3 Protective Custody.

Law Enforcement Guide

Elderly and Adult Services

◆ **NH Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services** - For information on how to report elder abuse/neglect.

1-800-949-0470

◆ **NH Department of Justice - Consumer Protection and Antitrust Bureau** - Protects consumers from unfair and deceptive business practices in New Hampshire.

1-888-468-4454

◆ **NH Legal Assistance/Senior Advice Line** - Provides direct representation, brief services, advice, and referrals to seniors experiencing consumer-related problems.

1-888-353-9944

◆ **ServiceLink** - Provides free and confidential information, referrals and assistance to older adults, persons with disabilities, and their families.

1- 866-634-9412

Sponsored by the
Elder Abuse Advisory Council
NH Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Community Based Care Services
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