

FAMILY VIOLENCE

"Family Violence" includes many different forms of **ABUSE** that adults or children may experience in their intimate, kinship or dependent relationships. Family violence also includes being mistreated or being neglected.

Family violence is against the law in Canada. An abuser can be charged with an applicable offence.

Criminal charges could include:

- Assault
- Assault causing bodily harm
- Criminal harassment (sometimes called "stalking")
- Uttering threats
- Mischief
- Intimidation
- Violation of a protective court order, such as a peace bond or a probation order
- Attempted murder
- Murder

For detailed information, please refer to the Justice Canada website at: <http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/fv-vf/about-aprop/index.html>

"If I had only known..."

Seniors Speaking to Seniors about Family Violence



This brochure was developed by the Afghan community for the Afghan community through working groups and focus group discussions. These groups were comprised of community leaders and scholars, survivors of elder abuse, perpetrators, settlement workers, violence against women workers and law enforcement officers. Information for this brochure was obtained from the Justice Canada as well as other relevant websites.

Disclaimer: This publication contains general information only. It is not a substitute for getting legal advice about your particular situation.

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FAMILY SERVICE TORONTO

Resources: Ask for a *Pashto/Dari/Farsi* interpreter to assist you with these resources:

**Senior Safety Line
1-866-299-1011**

This is a hotline to assist abused and at-risk seniors. Information, referrals, and support are provided 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in over 150 languages.

Information about abuse
www.justice.gc.ca under ***Abuse is Wrong in Any Language*** and ***Stalking is a crime called criminal harassment***.

Crisis Helplines and Shelter Referrals
www.shelternet.ca

Here you can find out how to make a safety plan, what documents and items to take with you, how to protect yourself if you need to leave, and what resources are available in your community. (*Available in Farsi*)

Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO)

www.cleo.on.ca / 1-416-408-4420

A community legal clinic that produces material in different languages

Information for newcomers to Ontario

www.settlement.org

What to do if you are in an abusive situation or you are in danger of being abused?

Talk to someone you trust

- Your doctor
- ESL teacher
- Your welfare worker
- A friend
- The leader of your local place of worship
- A relative
- A neighbour

If you are in immediate danger

Dial "911" for police assistance and say "**HELP**"

Say the name of your language and they can connect you with an interpreter.

(If you are using a cell phone, you must tell the person who answers your call where you are)

OR

Go to a place where you feel safe, like a Public Library or a store, and ask for help.

Early Warning Signs of that you may be experiencing Elder Abuse

- Untreated medical problems
- Signs of over or under medication
- Inadequate supervision or safety precautions
- Disrespected by loved ones
- Lack of attention
- Abandonment
- Confinement
- Verbal attacks, such as: yelling, screaming and name-calling.
- Criticism, mistreatment and humiliation in front others.
- Being treated like a child
- Feeling fearful, anxious, and depressed
- Feeling isolated
- Not being allowed to speak to service providers
- Money and personal items taken without permission
- Forged signatures on cheques
- Unusual or inappropriate activity in bank accounts
- Being lied to about the actual cost of products and services
- Being forced to sign over a will or property



Financial Abuse:

Financial abuse is the theft or exploitation of a person's money, property or assets, including fraud, forgery, and misuse of power of attorney.

Psychological Abuse:

Any action or comment causing emotional anguish, fear or diminished self-esteem or dignity (including: threats to do harm, harassment, forced institutionalization, abandonment, imposed isolation, removal of decision making choices).

For detailed information, please visit the World Health Organization website at:

http://www.who.int/ageing/projects/elder_abuse/en/index.html

WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?

Elder Abuse is can be a form of Family Violence, which refers to, mistreatment or neglect that older adults living in either private residences or institutions may experience at the hands of their spouses, children, other family members. Other forms of elder abuse can be caused by caregivers, service providers or other individuals in situations of power or trust. For older adults living with their families, abuse may relate to their level of financial or emotional dependence on others, or the abuse could relate to the level of emotional or financial dependence others have on older adults.

Different forms of Elder Abuse

Physical Abuse:

Any act of violence causing injury or physical discomfort, including: slapping, punching, intentional over or under medication, pushing, rough handling, and forcible restraint.

Elder Neglect:

The inability to provide basic or personal care needs, such as: food, water, clothing, medical treatment, a home, protection (including intentional failure of a caregiver to fulfill their responsibilities).