

WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?

Elder abuse refers to intentional or neglectful acts by a caregiver or trusted individual that lead to, or may lead to, the harm of a vulnerable older adult. It takes many forms:

- Physical (including domestic violence)
- Financial exploitation
- Caretaker neglect or abandonment
- Emotional, psychological, or verbal
- Sexual
- Self-neglect

What are some warning signs?

An elder:

- Seems isolated or withdrawn-
- Experiences unusual weight loss-
- Has a sudden change in financial situation-
- Has bedsores, unattended medical needs, or poor hygiene-
- Has bruises, pressure marks, broken bones, abrasions, and/or burns
- Seems fearful or confused
- A caregiver's behavior toward the senior is belittling, threatening, or overly controlling.



To report Adult Abuse and Neglect
Call **1-800-392-0210**

CONTACT US



+1 314-873-3501



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Do you need someone on your side?
Someone to work with you to help you
feel safe again? Someone to talk to?



CIRCLE OF CARE
ST. LOUIS

Caring for the Safety and
Well-being of older and
disabled adults

www.cicstl.org



OUR PROGRAM

Circle of Care, St. Louis, Elderly and Disabled Adult Victim Services is intended for individuals over the age of 60 and disabled adults 18-59 who may be abused and who are seeking services in response to abuse. Older/disabled adults have the right to self determination and to request services. All referrals for services through this program are made by Adult Protective Services, law enforcement, victim advocates and elder care coordinators only. The goal the program is to help victims prevail over the trauma of victimization in the St. Louis metropolitan area and Southeast regions.

Through our Elderly and Disabled Adult Victim Services (EDAVS) we provide **Person Centered Trauma Informed Care** supportive services to elderly and disabled victims of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Services Include:

In-Home Caregiving provides direct services to elderly and disabled victims of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. The project provides personal care, respite, or chore services to ensure victims' safety and avoid unnecessary out-of-home placement. The project also offers short-term placement funding for adults requiring emergency out-of-home placements.

Advocates assist victims through crisis intervention, conducting home visits, safety planning, working with law enforcement and the courts, obtaining protective orders. They will also help with filing Crime Victims' Compensation claims, providing support at appointments and court dates, and referrals to other community services.

Successful Aging through Financial Empowerment (SAFE) help older/disabled adults recover financially and emotionally after being victimized by financial scams or identity theft.

Multilingual Advocates Access (MAA) provides language accessible advocacy and crisis response to abused older and disabled adults who are uncomfortable speaking English.

Victims of Crime and Loss (VOCAL) provides Problem Solving Therapy and anxiety management to seniors and disabled adults who have experienced trauma.



KEY FACTS

- Around 1 in 6 people 60 years and older experienced some form of abuse in community settings during the past year.
- 60% of elder abuse and neglect incidents, the perpetrator is a family member. Two thirds of perpetrators are adult children or spouses.
- People with disabilities experience the same forms of physical violence, sexual abuse and molestation and neglect as the general population. However, they experience these abuses at much higher rates.