

# Do you know how to recognize the signs of elder or dependent adult abuse?



**YOU CAN HELP STOP THE ABUSE** of elders and dependent adults by being aware of signs that abuse may be occurring. Each year more than 225,000 Californians become victims of elder or dependent adult abuse. Unfortunately, more than two-thirds of abusers are family members. Learning these common signs can help you spot abuse in your own family or community:

## Physical Abuse

- Injuries that are incompatible with explanations
- Bruises, scratches or other injuries
- Inappropriate use of a physical restraint or medication

## Neglect

- Poor hygiene, dirty or torn clothes or lack of appropriate shelter
- Medical conditions that go untreated
- Malnourished or dehydrated

## Psychological Abuse

- Elderly person or dependent adult is withdrawn, secretive or is hesitant to talk freely around caregiver
- Family members or caregivers isolate the elder or dependent adult, restricting who they have contact with including other family members or friends
- Elder or dependent adult becomes confused or extremely forgetful

## Financial Abuse

- Unusual bank activity, including large, unexplained withdrawals, frequent transfers between accounts or ATM withdrawals
- Unpaid bills, eviction notices or discontinued utilities
- Implausible explanations given about an elder or dependent adult's finances by a relative or caregiver
- Changes in spending patterns often accompanied by the appearance of a new "best friend"

If you suspect abuse, you should report it as soon as possible. Whether you are a victim or suspect the abuse of someone you know, you are not alone when seeking help or resolution.

**STOP THE ABUSE OF ELDERS & DEPENDENT ADULTS**

**1-888-436-3600**

**FACE IT. IT'S A CRIME.**

**A message from the California Attorney General's Office**