

Violence Against Older Persons

Many older adults in Newfoundland & Labrador experience **violence & abuse**.

Physical Violence

It could be a hit, slap, shove, any rough treatment or threat of physical force. It can be improper use of medication or restraints.

Emotional Violence

This includes name-calling, threats, yelling, ignoring, or socially isolating the person. It can include treating the older adult “like a child” & trying to control a situation by making decisions for them.

Sexual Violence

This refers to sexual contact without the person saying yes & includes fondling & touching. It also includes unwelcomed sexual comments or jokes & pressuring somebody for intimacy.

Financial Abuse

This is illegal or misuse of a person’s money, assets or property.

Neglect

This refers to situations where a person is responsible to provide care or assistance, but does not (ex: not paying the bills, providing food, shelter or clean clothes).

Remember... There is no excuse for abuse.

Older adults are often mistreated by someone they trust: Adult Children, Spouse/Partner, Caregiver, Other Family Member, Friend, Neighbour.



What are the Warning Signs?

- If they tell you or others they are being harmed.
- Signs of depression or anxiety.
- May be unsettled & upset.
- Fearful around certain people.
- Become passive & very compliant.
- Become socially withdrawn & isolated.
- Show changes in hygiene or nutrition.
- Unexplained physical injuries or repeated ‘accidents’.
- Show signs of neglect. Lack food, clothing & other necessities.
- Unusual bank withdrawals or lack money for needed items.
- Puts herself/himself down & has feelings of guilt & blame.



Never Ignore Violence & Abuse!

For support, contact your local police department or Western Health at (709) 634-5551 (ext. 226).



Information adapted from Government of Newfoundland, Violence Prevention Initiative

Reach out. Take action against violence.

www.gov.nl.ca/vpi