



## Is Someone You Love At Risk for Elder Abuse?

### What is Elder Abuse?

Elder abuse is any act that hurts an older person. Elder abuse can happen in the family, in hospitals, nursing homes or in the community. Often the abuser is a family member.

### Kinds of elder abuse

- It looks like the person taking care of the older adult is hurting her or him.
- The older adult is threatened or insulted.
- The caregiver does not let the person see or talk to family, friends, or other people.
- The caregiver touches or has sex with an older adult without that person's okay.
- The older adult does not get food, shelter, health care or safety.
- The caregiver leaves an older adult alone when it is her or his job is to give care.
- The money or belongings of an older person are used without that person's okay.
- The elder cannot take care of himself.

### How can I tell if someone is being hurt?

It is not always easy to tell. It may be hard for someone to tell you he is being hurt. Look for these signs:

#### Watch for Abuse if the Caretaker:

- Uses drugs or alcohol
- Won't let the person talk to or see family, friends or other people.
- Controls where s/he can go
- Doesn't seem to care about the older adult.
- Is angry a lot
- Calls the person names
- Threatens to send person to a nursing home
- Threatens to hurt a pet

#### Watch for Abuse if the Older Adult:

- Has slap marks, bruises, or burns
- Does not do the activities s/he usually does.  
Acts in a different way than usual
- Has bruises on breasts or private parts
- Has bedsores that are not taken care of.  
Seems to need medical or dental care
- Wears dirty clothes, is not clean, or has overgrown hair or nails
- Has lost a lot of weight

### To get help or information call:

- New York State Elder Abuse Hotline at 1-800-342-3009 (Toll free in New York) - Press Choice 6; or visit [www.elderabusecenter.org](http://www.elderabusecenter.org) for more information.
- Office of Aging and Senior Citizen Hotline at 1-800-342-9871.
- Affinity Health Plan's Domestic Violence Coordinator, please call 1-888-543-9068 ext. 6051.

**If someone you know or care about is going to be hurt, call 911 NOW.**