

Emergency Responders Make The Difference

LT Rebecca Cowan





What type of calls should I pay attention to?

- Falls and lift assist calls
- Calls with bedbound subjects
- Repeat calls



Signs Of Abuse


- Unexplained bruises, marks, broken bones or abrasions
- Bruises or cuts around the wrists
- Burns (70% of burns are from abuse or neglect)
- Withdrawal from previously enjoyed activities, sudden change in alertness or unusual depression
- Facial injuries
- Victim is isolated. The caregiver will not let you talk to the senior alone or may always answer for the senior





Signs Of Neglect

- A senior who is over medicated or under medicated
- Poor hygiene, bedsores
- Unattended medical needs
- Seniors that have no access to food.
- Dehydration or dry lips
- Malnourishment
- Weight Loss
- Water or electric is cut off



Could you
recognise the
signs of
self-neglect?



Self Neglect

- Unusual weight loss, malnutrition, dehydration.
- Untreated physical problems, such as bed sores.
- Unsanitary living conditions: dirt, bugs, soiled bedding and clothes.
- Being left dirty or unbathed.
- Unsuitable clothing or covering for the weather
- Rent is past due

Emotional Abuse

A photograph showing a woman on the left, seen in profile, gesturing with her hands as if speaking. An elderly person with white hair is seated at a table on the right, looking down with a distressed or sad expression. The background is a dimly lit room with wooden paneling.

Is an older person you know being belittled and bullied?

Phone the Elder Abuse Helpline — anyone can make the call.
1300 651 192 www.qld.gov.au/knowthesigns



Emotional Abuse



- Caregivers will tell seniors that they need to do what they say, or they will end up in a home
- They call them worthless and tell them no one else will help them
- They call them stupid
- They call them worthless

What to document

- If someone claims to be a caregiver or POA
- Any signs of neglect or abuse
- Signs of over medication or under medicated
- Any person who is keeping you from talking to the senior
- Unsanitary condition
- If the electric or water are turned off
- Rent is past due



When should you report?

Anytime you suspect abuse,
neglect or
financial exploitation



Only **ONE** in **SIX**
cases of Elder Abuse
is **Reported.**

STOP Elder Abuse



How do you report?

- Online at:
<https://reportadultabuse.dhs.tn.gov/>
- By Phone: **1-888-APS-TENN (1-888-277-8366)**.
- Also report your local police department



Why report it to the Police Department?

- APS rules restrict what APS can investigate
- APS can't investigate if there is no caregiver abuse
- APS can't investigate if it is self neglect
- Current laws allow officers to investigate and charge
- If you don't report to police, then cases may fall through the cracks



Sevier County Resources

Food: My People Senior Center, Douglas Cherokee and Food Ministry

Electric: Douglas Cherokee and some churches

Rent: Salvation Army and Douglas Cherokee

Recourse Guides

Resources