Warning signs

Is the older adult...

- Fearful of caregiver
- Not receiving necessary assistance from caregiver
- Prevented from interacting privately with family, friends, or other professionals
- Crying, agitated, trembling, confused, or in emotional distress
- Withdrawn, depressed, lacking emotion
- Showing signs of self-destructive behavior
- Socially or physically isolated
- Displaying poor hygiene, such as dirty clothing, body odor
- Lacking in basic necessities, or home is in disarray
- Suffering from unexplained bruises, burns, cuts, or welts
- Experiencing unauthorized withdrawal of funds or use of credit cards

What is elder abuse?

Elder abuse is the mistreatment of older adults in one or more of the following ways:

- **PHYSICAL**: Use of force (such as hitting or pushing) causing pain, harm, or physical injury; inappropriate use of medications or physical restraints.
- **SEXUAL**: Any type of non-consensual sexual contact.
- **PSYCHOLOGICAL**: Mistreatment that affects emotional or mental health, including: intimidation, threats, harassment, humiliation, belittlement, or isolation.
- **NEGLECT**: Willful deprivation of basic needs, including food, clothing, shelter, medicine, or personal hygiene.
- **FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION**: Misuse of the older adult’s money, property, or resources.
### How can ElderSAFE help?

**Education** is the vital link between recognizing the signs of elder abuse, knowing how to safely intervene, and preventing future abuse. The ElderSAFE Center at Charles E. Smith Life Communities actively educates professionals, service providers, and community members to build awareness and knowledge of elder abuse, with programs held on our campus, and throughout the community.

ElderSAFE Center professionals offer informative sessions hand-tailored for each audience:

- Hospital staff
- Prosecutors
- Adult Protective Services
- First responders
- Home health agencies
- Social service providers
- Caregivers
- Attorneys
- Financial planners
- Faith leaders
- Community groups
- Senior centers

To inquire about inviting the ElderSAFE Center to lead an education session or to speak at your next conference, please call the ElderSAFE Helpline.

### Education is the vital link

The ElderSAFE Center at Charles E. Smith Life Communities accepts referrals from community agencies and programs throughout Maryland, Washington, DC, and Northern Virginia. The language-accessible Helpline, 301.816.5099, is staffed Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The ElderSAFE Center provides the following services to older adults 60 years and older who are experiencing abuse or neglect:

- Safe, temporary shelter
- Confidential counseling
- Medical services
- Physical, occupational, and speech therapy
- Psychological therapeutic services
- Case management on site
- Community referrals and coordination with partner agencies
- Spiritual support
- SAFE discharge

### Shelter & Services

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### Building Community Partnerships

The ElderSAFE Center at Charles E. Smith Life Communities works with our community partners to build a strong and effective response to elder abuse.

Members of our Community Coalition include:

- Montgomery County Adult Protective Services (APS)
- Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
- Montgomery County Police, Elder Abuse Unit
- Montgomery County State’s Attorney’s Office
- Holy Cross Hospital
- Suburban Hospital, Johns Hopkins Medicine
- Catholic Charities Legal Network of the Archdiocese of Washington
- Jewish Council for the Aging (JCA)
- Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA)
- Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA)

### Our Commitment

Our commitment to caring for older adults reaches beyond our campus. As an organization that is mission-driven and inspired by Jewish values, Charles E. Smith Life Communities has established the ElderSAFE Center, the first program of its kind in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, to provide safe temporary shelter, to coordinate and provide community referrals, and to increase public awareness and education about elder abuse.

We thank those who support our mission.

**For their guidance and example:**

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elder Abuse Prevention at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale.

**For their generous support:**

- Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Inc.
- Montgomery County, Maryland
- Family of Jack and Adelaide Friedlander and Jack and Idalee Diener
- Walter and Sarah Diener Foundation, Inc. and Marilyn, Jeffrey, and Janice Cohen
- ELNO Family Foundation

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ElderSAFE Helpline: 301.816.5099 | www.eldersafe.org | www.smithlifecommunities.org