ELDER ABUSE
WATCH, LOOK, LISTEN - TAKE ACTION

WARNING SIGNS TO LOOK FOR:

- Unexplained injuries, bruises, burns
- Excessive fears, withdrawal, agitation
- Sudden inability to pay bills, buy food or personal items
  - Changes in appetite: unusual weight gain or loss
    - Poor personal hygiene
    - Does not know personal finances
    - Unexplained changes in health
- Dependency of adult child or caregiver for income and/or shelter
- Unauthorized withdrawal of funds or use of credit cards

WHAT YOU CAN DO:
- Visit an elder often
- Talk with the elder in private
- Speak up when something looks or sounds wrong
- Listen, be observant
- Report suspected abuse, neglect or self-neglect to:

For more information go to:
or call RI Division of Elderly Affairs Abuse Helpline 401-462-0555

WHAT ELDERS CAN DO:
- Tell someone about the mistreatment.
- Seek medical treatment and confide in the doctor.
- Never give away money that is needed for living expenses.
- Never give away a social security number, credit card numbers to people who are unknown and untrustworthy.
- Never let anyone keep details of financial status from the elder.
- Never sign a document until someone trusted reads it.
- Do not live with someone who has a history of violent behavior

No elder should live another day in fear and uncertainty.
It takes an entire community to prevent elder abuse.

Saint Elizabeth Haven, a safe haven program for elderly victims of abuse.

Saint Elizabeth Community
Where RI seniors come first
ELDER ABUSE CAN BE PREVENTED

Each year, hundreds of thousands of older persons are abused, neglected and exploited. Unfortunately, no one is immune. It occurs in every demographic. The consequences of elder abuse are grave. And it can happen to anyone - a family member, a neighborhood, even you. Yet it is estimated that only about one in five of those crimes are ever discovered.

WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?

_Elder abuse is the mistreatment of older adults. It can be:_

**PHYSICAL:** use of force causing pain or injury; inappropriate use of medications or physical restraints.

**SEXUAL:** non-consensual sexual contact.

**PSYCHOLOGICAL:** mistreatment that affects emotional or mental health, intimidation, threats, harassment, humiliation, isolation, belittlement.

**NEGLECT:** deprivation of food, clothing, shelter, medicine, or personal hygiene.

**FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION:** misuse of money, property, or resources.

IT’S THE LAW!

- Elders are protected by RI law against abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- Elders have the right to live free from mistreatment and abuse and the right to report it.
- Every citizen has the responsibility to report abuse if they suspect that an elder is being harmed.

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