Elder Abuse
What You Need to Know

TYPES OF ELDER ABUSE:

• **Physical abuse** intentional use of force that results in illness, bodily injury, pain, functional impairment, distress or death

• **Emotional abuse** verbal or non-verbal behavior that results in the infliction of anguish, mental pain, fear or distress

• **Financial abuse** illegal, unauthorized or improper use of resources

• **Sexual abuse** forced and/or unwanted sexual interaction

• **Neglect** failure by caregiver or other person in a trusting relationship to protect older adult from harm or meet essential needs

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF ELDER ABUSE:

• Unexplained bruises or physical injury

• Emotional distress such as crying, depression, agitation or withdrawn affect

• Social and physical isolation

• Unexplained loss of financial independence or control

• Missing assistive devices: glasses, hearing aids, dentures or other necessary medical equipment

over
Is there Elder Abuse?

**SPEAK TO OLDER ADULT ALONE:**
- Are you afraid of anyone you know?
- Does anyone prevent you from accessing your phone, computer or mail?
- Do you have trouble managing your money?

**Interview Tip:** Confusion may be attributed to dehydration, a urinary tract infection or time of day. **Offer the older adult water and reassurance.**

**LOOK FOR:**
- Lack of or spoiled food
- Services or cleanup needed in home
- Disorganized medication
- Poor hygiene or inappropriate clothing for the weather

**RESOURCES:**
- **FOR EMERGENCIES:** CALL 911
- **Adult Protective Services (APS):**
  - NYC (212) 630-1853
  - Westchester (914) 995-2259
- **NYC Department for the Aging Elderly Crime Victims Resource Center:** (212) 442-3103
- **Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services:** (914) 813-6300
- **The Weinberg Center for Elder Justice:**
  1-800-56-SENIOR (1-800-567-3646)  
  *(Professional referrals only)*

[theweinbergcenter.org](http://theweinbergcenter.org)