

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER MAKING A REPORT?

The Protective Services staff at Old Colony Elder Services will:

- conduct an assessment to determine if there is abuse or neglect
- evaluate functional capacity and resources available to the elder
- provide or arrange for services needed by the elder
- provide counseling, with the consent of the elder or his/her guardian, to help alleviate or prevent the abuse or neglect
- assist with crisis intervention and advocacy for the elder
- help keep elders safely in their own homes

## HOW DO I REPORT ABUSE, NEGLECT OR EXPLOITATION?

Speak in confidence to a member of our staff. For more information or to report abuse, neglect or exploitation call:

508-584-1561

800-242-0246

Monday-Friday  
9:00am-5:00pm

At all other times, call the state-wide Elder Abuse Hotline:

800-922-2275  
5:00pm-9:00am

## PROUDLY SERVING

Abington, Avon, Bridgewater, Brockton, Carver, Duxbury, East Bridgewater, Easton, Halifax, Hanover, Hanson, Kingston, Lakeville, Marshfield, Middleboro, Pembroke, Plymouth, Plympton, Rockland, Stoughton, Wareham, West Bridgewater & Whitman



144 Main Street  
Brockton, Massachusetts 02301  
508-584-1561  
800-242-0246  
TTY: 508-587-0280  
Fax: 508-897-0031

[info@oldcolonyelderservices.org](mailto:info@oldcolonyelderservices.org)  
[www.oldcolonyelderservices.org](http://www.oldcolonyelderservices.org)

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# PROTECTIVE SERVICES



## Old Colony Elder Services

Serving elders, families and caregivers for over 30 years





## ELDER ABUSE

According to law, elder abuse is an act or omission that results in serious physical or emotional injury to an elderly person.

### DELIBERATE AND SERIOUS PHYSICAL OR EMOTIONAL INJURY

Non-accidental injuries, such as:

- fractures
- extensive bruising
- puncture wounds

Serious emotional injuries, including:

- severe anxiety
- depression
- withdrawal

## NEGLECT

Neglect involves the failure of a caretaker to provide one or more necessities essential for the physical, intellectual and emotional well-being of an elder, such as:

- food
- shelter
- clothing
- social contact
- medical care
- personal care

## FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

The act or omission by another person that causes:

- substantial monetary or property loss to an elder
- substantial monetary or property gain that should have benefited the elder but instead benefited another person

## SELF NEGLECT

A self-caused act or failure to act that could result in:

- lack of food, money, shelter or medical care
- alcoholism or drug dependency
- depression, confusion or fear
- eviction or premature nursing facility placement

## WHO IS A VICTIM?

Anyone, 60 years of age or older, living in the community, who:

- suffers serious physical, sexual or emotional injury; or
- is neglecting himself/herself; or
- is being neglected or financially exploited by his/her caretaker.

## WHO IS A CARETAKER?

A person responsible for the care of an elderly person, such as:

- a family member
- a person who has assumed responsibility for an elder on a voluntary, fiduciary or contractual basis

## WHO SHOULD INITIATE A REPORT?

Anyone who has reasonable cause to believe that an elder is suffering from or has died from abuse, neglect or exploitation should report it.

Professionals who must report abuse or neglect include:

- Physicians
- Nurses
- Social Workers
- Police Officers
- Firefighters
- EMTs
- Psychologists
- COA Directors

Anyone who reports alleged abuse or neglect in good faith shall not be liable in any civil or criminal action.