

## Abuse types – behaviours and signs

| Financial                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Psychological                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Neglect                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Physical                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Sexual                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| <p><b>Behaviours:</b></p> <p>Threatening, coercing re: assets or wills;</p> <p>Taking control of the older person's finances against their wishes and denying access to their own money;</p> <p>Abusing Powers of Attorney;</p> <p>Stealing goods, e.g. jewellery, credit cards, cash, food, and other possessions;</p> <p>Unauthorised use of banking and financial documents; and</p> <p>The recent addition of a signature on a bank account.</p> | <p><b>Behaviours:</b></p> <p>Pressuring, intimidating or bullying;</p> <p>Name calling, and verbal abuse;</p> <p>Treating an older person like a child;</p> <p>Threatening to harm the person, other people or pets;</p> <p>Engaging in emotional blackmail such as threatening to withdraw access to grandchildren, family, friends, services, telephone or placement in an aged care facility;</p> <p>Preventing contact with family and friends, or denying access to the phone or computer;</p> <p>Withholding mail;</p> <p>Preventing an older person from engaging in religious or cultural practices; and</p> <p>Moving an older person far away family or friends.</p> | <p><b>Behaviours:</b></p> <p>Failure to provide basic needs, i.e. food, adequate or clean clothing, heating, medicines;</p> <p>Under- or over-medication;</p> <p>Exposure to danger or lack of supervision, such as leaving the older person in an unsafe place or in isolation;</p> <p>An overly attentive carer in the company of others; and</p> <p>Refusal to permit others to provide appropriate care.</p> | <p><b>Behaviours:</b></p> <p>Pushing, shoving, or rough handling;</p> <p>Kicking, hitting, punching, slapping, biting, and/or burning;</p> <p>Restraining: physical or medical;</p> <p>Locking the person in a room or home or tying to a chair or bed;</p> <p>Intentional injury with a weapon or object; and</p> <p>Overuse or misuse of medications.</p> | <p><b>Behaviours:</b></p> <p>Non-consensual sexual contact, language or exploitative behaviour;</p> <p>Rape and sexual assault;</p> <p>Cleaning or treating the older person's genital area roughly or inappropriately; and</p> <p>Enforced nudity of an older person against their consent.</p> |

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| <p><b>Signs:</b></p> <p>Unexplained disappearance of belongings;</p> <p>Unexplained or inability to pay bills;</p> <p>Significant bank withdrawals and/or changes to wills;</p> <p>Inability of an older person to access bank accounts or statements;</p> <p>Stockpiling of unpaid bills or an empty fridge;</p> <p>Disparity between living conditions and money; and</p> <p>No money to pay for essentials for the home including food, clothing, and utilities.</p> | <p><b>Signs:</b></p> <p>Resignation, shame;</p> <p>Depression, tearfulness;</p> <p>Confusion, agitation;</p> <p>Feelings of helplessness;</p> <p>Unexplained paranoia or excessive fear;</p> <p>Disrupted appetite or sleep patterns, such as insomnia;</p> <p>Unusual passivity or anger;</p> <p>Sadness or grief at the loss of interactions with others;</p> <p>Withdrawal or listlessness due to people not visiting;</p> <p>Changes in levels of self-esteem;</p> <p>Worry or anxiety after a visit by specific person/people; and</p> <p>Social isolation.</p> | <p><b>Signs:</b></p> <p>Inadequate clothing, complaints of being cold or too hot;</p> <p>Poor personal hygiene, unkempt appearance;</p> <p>Lack of medical or dental care, or injuries that have not been properly cared for;</p> <p>Absence of required aids;</p> <p>Exposure to unsafe, unhealthy, and /or unsanitary conditions; and</p> <p>Unexplained weight loss, dehydration, poor skin integrity, malnutrition.</p> | <p><b>Signs:</b></p> <p>Internal or external injuries (sprains, dislocations and fractures, pressure sores, unexplained bruises or marks on different areas of the body, pain on touching);</p> <p>Broken or healing bones;</p> <p>Lacerations to mouth, lips, gums, eyes or ears, missing teeth and/or eye injuries;</p> <p>Evidence of hitting, punching, shaking, pulling, i.e. bruises, lacerations, choke marks, hair loss or welts;</p> <p>Burns, i.e. rope, cigarettes, matches, iron, and/or hot water.</p> | <p><b>Signs:</b></p> <p>Unexplained STD or incontinence (bladder or bowel);</p> <p>Injury and trauma, e.g. scratches, bruises etc. to face, neck, chest, abdomen, thighs or buttocks;</p> <p>Trauma including bleeding around the genitals, chest, rectum or mouth;</p> <p>Torn or bloody underclothing or bedding;</p> <p>Human bite marks; and</p> <p>Anxiety around the perpetrator and other psychological symptoms.</p> |
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