



Tool 1.6: Abuse types - behaviours and signs

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

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