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• Elder Abuse

ELDER ABUSE

Elder abuse is defined as any action or inaction that jeopardizes the health or well-being of an older adult. It includes denial of an older adult's fundamental rights and neglect (active or passive) by a caregiver. It can take many forms including: financial, physical, mental, emotional and spiritual.

An abuser can be anyone, but most often it is a family member or partner. Abuse includes using name calling, threats, yelling, put-downs and physical intimidation to control the senior's actions or decisions. It also includes taking money or possessions without permission and using coercion to have a senior sign documents. In many cases, the older adult feels they have to give in or agree to something in order to avoid escalation or to ensure their safety. Sometimes abuse can unintentionally occur due to caregiver stress. With additional supports for the older adult and the caregiver, some of this stress can be relieved.

Signs of abuse:

Older adults being abused may become withdrawn, depressed and isolated. They may have financial difficulty, unexplained injuries, anxiety and difficulty sleeping. They may have changes in hygiene, nutrition or medication. They may experience diminishing self-esteem.

Some effects of abuse can include:

Abused or neglected older adults have a 200% increased risk of early death. The stress of living in an abusive situation shortens older people's lives by several years on average. Living with abuse and

neglect can also significantly increase the person's chances of becoming ill or may make other health problems worse. Up to 6% of abused older adults become severely depressed.

www.seniors.alberta.ca/services/resources/elderabuse/Fact4_WEAAD_E.pdf

Resources for older adults experiencing abuse or those concerned about a senior.

CRISIS INFORMATION

Seniors Abuse Help Line 780.454.8888

24 hour information and support line for older adults experiencing abuse and their families and friends.

Alberta Family Violence Information Line 310.1818 toll-free

(24 hours) for information, advice and referrals. Interpreters for many languages available.

The Support Network 780.482.HELP (4357)

24 hour distress line

Community Resource Information 211

Information about services, programs, agencies in Edmonton

CRISIS SERVICES

SAGE Seniors' Safe House 780.702.1520

Offers temporary accommodation for seniors leaving abusive situations including furnished suites, meals, peer and staff support. www.mysage.ca

EARS (Elderly Adult Resource Services) 780.477.2929

Services for seniors (65+) who have questions or concerns about elder abuse. Can assist in developing safety plans, protection orders, court processes and referrals to community resources. www.catholicocialservices.ab.ca

EAIT (Elder Abuse Intervention Team) **780.477.2929**

Services for seniors (65+) who are at high risk of abuse or are experiencing abuse from a family member or unrelated caregiver. The team is made up through a collaborative effort between City of Edmonton Community Services, the Edmonton Police Service, Victorian Order of Nurses and Catholic Social Services. If you suspect a criminal offence has occurred and a police investigation is needed, call the Edmonton Police Service Complaint Line at 780.423.4567 or in an emergency call 911.

Family Violence Prevention Centre **780.423.1635**

A service through the Edmonton John Howard Society, the FVPC serves people who have left or are currently in an abusive relationship; anyone affected by family violence, and people seeking information about family violence. Services provided include: furniture and moving assistance, advocacy, court support and safety planning. Services are offered in various languages including Cantonese and Mandarin.
www.johnhoward.org/programs_and_services/community_services/family_violence_prevention.html

Emergency Protection Order Program **780.422.9222**

Provides assistance through the process of obtaining an Emergency Protection Order.

OTHER SERVICES & INFORMATION

Health Link **780.408.LINK (5465)**

Health advice and information provided by registered nurses 24 hrs a day. Provides information on services offered by Alberta Health Services (Edmonton area) and can direct you

to services and programs.
TTY: 780.496.8822

City of Edmonton Services **780.496.4777**

Free short term counseling and individual assistance, support groups for men, women, seniors, including Relationships With Your Adult Children and support groups for people experiencing family violence. Information and referrals are available.

Seniors' Support Groups Coordinator
780.944.5447
Seniors' Services Coordinator
780.944.0462
seniors@edmonton.ca

Alberta Seniors and Community Supports **1.800.642.3853** **Edmonton Area: 780.427.7876**

Alberta government benefits for seniors, including financial assistance and assistance for special needs, optical and dental, prescriptions, property taxes, etc.
www.seniors.gov.ab.ca

Office of the Public Guardian **1.877.427.4525 or 780.701.9006 (SAGE)**

Provides decision-making mechanisms for individuals who are unable to make personal non-financial decisions for themselves.

Office of the Public Trustee **780.427.2744**

Protects the financial interests of vulnerable Albertans by administering their estates.

Protection for Persons in Care **1.888.357.9339**

Investigates reports of abuse or safety concerns for adults in publicly funded care facilities including hospitals, seniors' lodges and nursing homes. The Protection for Persons in Care Act, enacted in 1998, makes it a requirement to report any suspicion of abuse to a toll-free reporting line or to

local police authorities.
www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/

Service Canada 1.800.277.9914

Information about financial benefits for seniors from the government of Canada, including Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement.
www.servicecanada.gc.ca/

AADAC 780.427.2736

Information, supports and services for those using substances, or concerned family and friends of people who may have an addiction.
www.aadac.com

Alberta Elder Abuse Awareness Network (AEAAN)

A network of Albertans dedicated to increasing awareness and supporting a community response to elder abuse. AEAAN is a province-wide network of professionals, represented by communities across Alberta, promoting the well-being of older adults, working to increase community awareness, developing resources to address elder abuse, and strengthening the right to safety, respect and dignity.
www.albertaelderabuse.ca/

SAFE ACCOMMODATIONS:

SAGE Seniors' Safe House 780.702.1520

Temporary accommodation specifically for older adults (60+) who are needing safety due to an abusive situation. Staff is available on site to provide support and information about community resources, safety planning, financial benefits, and more.

A Safe Place 780.464-7233

WIN House 780.479.0058

Lurana Shelter 780.424.5875

For additional information for women's shelters in Alberta, contact the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters at **1.866.331.3933** or www.acws.ca

THE SUNSHINE CAFÉ

At



**Open Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Open to the public.
Everyone is welcome!

We offer a full menu including...

Fresh baking daily,
breakfasts and hot lunch specials,
soups, sandwiches, salads, desserts
and more!

**Try our Sage Savories Home Style Meals
delivered to your door.**

See page 86 for complete menu

SAGE Seniors' Safe House

provides temporary safe housing for men and women 60 years of age or older who are in need of safety from an abusive relationship.

If you suspect abuse or are experiencing abuse, call the intake line during the day at **780.702.1520** or the 24 Hour

Seniors' Abuse Helpline

at **780.454.8888**