Protecting the Elderly

Office Locations:

Alameda County Family Justice Center
Elder Protection Unit
470 27th Street,
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 267-8800
www.acfjc.org

Victim-Witness Assistance Division
Alameda County
District Attorney’s Office
1401 Lakeside Drive, Suite 802
Oakland, California 94612
(510) 272-6180
www.alcoda.org/victim_witness

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911

Protecting our future

No one deserves to be a victim!

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911

Resources

Adult Protective Services 510-577-1900
ACFJC Elder Protection Unit 510-267-8800
Bay Area Community Services (BACS) 510-613-0330
Court Investigator’s Office (if a conservatorship exists) 510-636-8820
Alameda County Department of Adult and Aging Services 510-577-1900
State of California Elder Abuse Hotline 877-477-3646

Elder Care Locator 800-677-1116
In-Home Support Services 510-577-1900
Legal Assistance for Seniors 510-832-3040
Medi-Cal 800-541-5555
Medicare 800-633-4227
Oakland Department of Aging -Linkages Program 510-238-3931

Ombudsman, Inc. 510-638-2214
(if elder resides in a skilled facility)
Public Guardian/Conservator’s Office 510-577-1900
Social Security-General 800-772-1213
Social Security-Hearing Impaired 800-325-0778
Veterans Assistance Center 510-577-3547
Victim-Witness Assistance Division -Elder Abuse Services 510-267-8800

Monday – Friday; 8:30AM-5:00PM
Please call if you would like further information concerning our services and how we can help!

Office of the District Attorney
Alameda County
Nancy E. O’Malley, District Attorney
(510) 267-8800
DID YOU KNOW?

- Over 10% of Alameda County’s population is over 65 years of age.
- California has the largest number of seniors: over three million.
- Nationally, an estimated 40% of elder abuse victims are victims of financial exploitation.
- One out of every 20 elder Americans are victims of elder abuse every year.
- Crimes against the elderly are under-reported, varying between 1 in 5 to 1 in 14 cases.

What is Elder Abuse? Elder abuse is defined as the unlawful physical or psychological mistreatment of a senior, which can include taking financial advantage of a senior as well as actual neglect or physical mistreatment. Each of these crimes is punishable by imprisonment (California Penal Code section 368).

What can you do? Learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of elder abuse, tell someone and help stop the cycle.

These crimes can be committed in the following ways:

**PHYSICAL / SEXUAL ABUSE:**
Any physical pain or injury committed against an elder. ALL sexual acts committed without consent or ability to give consent.

**NEGLECT:**
Failure of a caregiver to provide clothing, shelter, assistance with hygiene and protection from dehydration, malnutrition and health and safety hazards.

**EMOTIONAL ABUSE:**
Fear, confusion or depression brought about by threats, intimidation or deception.

**ABANDONMENT:**
Desertion of an elder or dependent person by someone charged with his or her care.

**FINANCIAL ABUSE:**
Any theft of an elder’s money or property; may include wrongful use of legal documents such as power of attorney (POA).

Possible indicators of physical abuse or neglect:
- Cuts, bruises, burns, or rope marks
- Poor hygiene, rashes, sores, sudden weight loss
- Soiled clothing, missing eyeglasses, dentures or hearing aids
- Fear, anxiety, isolation, personality changes

Possible indicators of financial abuse:
- Sudden withdrawals of closing of bank accounts.
- Sudden involvement of previously uninvolved relative or a new friend.
- Unexplained changes to will, power of attorney or other legal documents.
- Financial transactions involving the elder’s money or property where the elder does little speaking or appears confused or passive.
- Reluctance to discuss finances or lack of knowledge of finances.

**THE VICTIM - WITNESS ASSISTANCE DIVISION CAN HELP!**

A criminal act may have serious and lasting physical, economic and emotional impact on a senior citizen.

A victim consultant is assigned to work with victims of crime and/or family members to provide services to address their needs and concerns.

Some of the areas in which we can help:

- **Applying for State Compensation Benefits.** Victim Consultants will help senior citizen victims complete compensation forms for expenses related to the crime. Often times, physical injury may result in heavy medical expenses and a need for home support services, counseling, replacement of eye glasses, hearing aids, other assistive devices, and locks.

- **Information and referral to other agencies.** Victim advocacy will be provided to help senior citizens increase their personal and home security and assisting in referrals to appropriate community service programs.

- **Provide support and information throughout the court process.** The court process can be confusing. A consultant can help by thoroughly explaining the process and arranging or providing transportation to and from court when necessary.

The identity of any individual who reports abuse to law enforcement is confidential, even from the victim.

W & I Code 15633

**Report abuse to the Alameda County Family Justice Center Elder Protection Unit, local Law Enforcement or Adult Protective Services.**