

# Identifying Elder Abuse

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Elder Abuse is one of the most grossly under-recognized and under-reported social problems in the U.S. It's estimated that 1 in 23 elder abuse cases go unreported.

## Types of Elder Abuse:

- **Physical Abuse**—Inflicting, or threatening to inflict, physical pain or injury on a vulnerable elder, or depriving them of a basic need.
- **Emotional Abuse**—Inflicting mental pain, anguish, or distress towards an elder person through verbal or nonverbal acts.
- **Sexual Abuse**—Non-consensual sexual contact of any kind, coercing an elder to witness sexual behaviors.
- **Financial Exploitation**—Illegal taking, misuse, or concealment of funds, property, or assets of a vulnerable elder.
- **Neglect**—Refusal or failure by those responsible to provide food, shelter, health care, or protection for a vulnerable elder by a caretaker.
- **Self-Neglect** – An elder neglecting their own care, which can lead to illness or injury.
- **Abandonment**—The desertion of a vulnerable elder by anyone who has assumed the responsibility for care or custody of that person.

## Warning Signs of Elder Abuse:

1. Bruises, pressure sores, broken bones, dislocations, abrasions, welts, burns, signs of being restrained. Bruises around the breasts or genital area, unexplained STD's, unexplained vaginal or anal bleeding.
2. Unexplained withdrawal from normal activities, isolation, new/unusual depression.
3. Caretaker displaying threatening behaviors, belittling, coercion, undue influence.
4. Caretaker evasive about finances, unusual bank withdraws, unpaid bills, new poverty.
5. Poor hygiene, unusual weight loss, malnutrition, dehydration, soiled bedding or clothing, unsuitable clothing for weather conditions.
6. Hoarding of objects, papers, trash, and/or animal hoarding.
7. Failure to take essential medications or refusal to seek medical treatment for serious illness.
8. Fire hazards; lack of heat/water/electricity; presence of bugs, rodents, animal urine and feces.
9. Leaving a burning stove unattended, inability to attend to housekeeping, mail/newspaper not collected.
  - Desertion of an elder at a public place.

Sources:

[1] Heritage Agency on Aging

[2] National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA)

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# Additional Resources

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## **Cedar Rapids Police Department**

505 1<sup>st</sup> St SW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404  
(319) 286-5375 ext. 5485  
[www.cedar-rapids.org/police](http://www.cedar-rapids.org/police)

## **Crime Stoppers**

1-(800) -272-7463

## **Cedar Rapids Fire Department**

713 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue SE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401  
(319) 286-5200 – Main Number  
(319) 286-5277 – Public Educator  
[www.cedar-rapids.org/government/departments/fire](http://www.cedar-rapids.org/government/departments/fire)

## **Marion Police Department**

6315 US-151  
Marion, IA 52302  
(319) 377-1511  
[www.cityofmarion.org/departments/police-department](http://www.cityofmarion.org/departments/police-department)

## **Marion Fire Department**

3933 Katz Drive  
Marion, IA 52302  
(319) 377-8237  
[www.cityofmarion.org/departments/fire-department](http://www.cityofmarion.org/departments/fire-department)

## **Hiawatha Police Department**

101 Emmons St.  
Hiawatha, IA 52233  
(319) 393-1212

## **Linn County Sherriff's Office**

P.O. Box 669, 310 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue SW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406  
(319) 892-6100  
[www.linncounty.org](http://www.linncounty.org)

## **Mount Vernon Police Department**

213 1<sup>st</sup> St NW  
Mount Vernon, IA 52314  
(319) 895-6141  
[www.cityofmtvernon.com](http://www.cityofmtvernon.com)

## **Linn County Emergency Management**

6301 Kirkwood Blvd SW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404  
(319) 892-6500  
<http://www.linncounty-ema.org>

## **Aging Services**

317 7<sup>th</sup> Ave SE Suite 302B  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401  
(319) 398-3644  
[www.agingservicesia.org](http://www.agingservicesia.org)

## **Heritage Area Agency on Aging**

6301 Kirkwood Blvd SW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404  
(319) 398-5559  
[www.HeritageAAA.org](http://www.HeritageAAA.org)

## **Horizons: A Family Service Alliance**

819 5<sup>th</sup> Street SE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403  
(319) 398-3943  
[www.horizonsfamily.org](http://www.horizonsfamily.org)

## **LifeLong Links**

*(Families & Caregivers can get info on services for older adults & persons with disabilities age 18+)*  
(866) 468-7887  
[www.lifelonglinks.org](http://www.lifelonglinks.org)

## **AARP**

(866) 554-5378  
[www.aarp.org/ia](http://www.aarp.org/ia)

## **United Way of East Central Iowa**

317 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE Suite 401  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401  
(319) 398-5372  
<http://www.uweci.org/>

