



In Diversity & Kindness



ELDER ABUSE “SILENT NO LONGER”

The words to be repeated over & over as the crisis escalates.

Why?

Elder abuse (violence, psychological abuse, financial, sexual & neglect) has been on the rise during the Covid-19 pandemic. It’s time to take the crisis seriously.

Key Facts.

- 1) Approximately 1 in 6 people 60 years & older experienced abuse in community settings this year
- 2) Rates of elder abuse are high in institutions such as long-term care facilities & nursing homes in the past year
- 3) Elder abuse is predicted to increase as the population ages.

Statistics

In recent years 16% of the elder population have been abused, but only about 4% has been reported.

In Pennsylvania

Fiscal year 17-18 57% of the Report of Need (RONs) were investigated

Fiscal year 18-19 67% of the Report of Need (RONs) were investigated – a 10% increase

ELDER ABUSE “Silent No Longer” PANELISTS REPRESENT

Chester County Dept of Aging Service

U.S. Senator Bob Casey

Domestic Violence Center of Chester County

Berks County District Attorney

Curran Estate & Elder Law

<https://youtu.be/yYXqtXoQUnQ>

Committee Chair: Lion Zone Chair Toby Price Gelman (Ms)
 Sandra Murphy, Director Chester County Dept. of Aging Services
 Amelia Rayburn-Pizzica, Director Educational Programs Domestic Violence Center Chester County
 Lt. Detective Harold Shenk, District Attorney Berks County, PA
 Ebony Staton Weidman, Regional Director Southeast Pennsylvania U.S. Senator Bob Casey
 PID Lion Cindy Gregg
 Lion Barbara Smith
 Lion Lathea Moskel

Local Resources:

Statewide Elder Abuse Hotline

1-800-490-8505
www.aging.pa.gov

National Center on Elder Abuse

www.ncea.acl.gov

Chester County

Department of Aging

Toll-Free: 1-800-564-7000
Local: (610) 344-6350

www.chesco.org/486/Protective-Services

Domestic Violence Center of Chester County

Toll-Free: 1-888-711-6270
Local: (610) 431-1430
www.dvcccpa.org

Berks County

Department of Aging

(610) 478-6500

SAFE Berks

Toll-Free: 1-844-789-SAFE
Text "SAFE BERKS" to 20121
www.safeberks.org

**IF YOU ARE IN DANGER,
CALL 911!**

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors & Partners



Berks County Area Agency on Aging



Chester County
Department of Aging Services



DVCCC

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CENTER OF CHESTER COUNTY



Educate • Advocate • End Abuse

Elder Abuse: "Silent No Longer"



Information & Resources

This event brought to you by
**Lions District 14p
Chester County &
Berks County, PA**



What is Elder Abuse?

Elder Abuse is a term used to describe any knowing, intentional, or negligent act by a caregiver or any other person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable adult. Elder abuse can come in various forms:

Physical/Sexual Abuse

Hitting, pushing, kicking, punching, pinching, biting, unnecessarily restraint, intentionally causing pain, intentional misuse of medication, sexual abuse/exploitation, etc.

Verbal Abuse

Calling names, put-downs, making fun, embarrassing/humiliating, criticism, etc.

Emotional Abuse

Threats of harm or abandonment, manipulation, mind games, gaslighting—making you feel crazy, isolation, non-communication, intimidation, control, etc.

Financial Abuse

Pressure to make or making undue changes to legal, financial documents, theft of or withholding of funds, identity theft, etc.

Neglect & Self-Neglect

Deprivation of basic needs: food, water, housing, clothing, hygiene, medical care, emotional/social engagement, etc.

Self-Neglect involves an older adult, living independently, who is unable/unwilling to care for themselves leading to an environment threatening to health and safety.

Risk Factors for Elder Abuse

There are some factors that can put an older adult at increased risk for experiencing abuse including:

- An adult child who is still dependent on their older parent for financial assistance or housing—especially in cases where the adult child suffers from mental illness or a substance abuse disorder (addiction).
- A history of domestic violence in the home or family—as families grow and age, present problems of domestic violence often continue.
- Living with others in isolation—prevents likelihood of reporting of abuse.

PA Statistics on Elder Abuse

In national statistics, 1 in 10 adults 60+ have experienced some form of abuse. In Pennsylvania, since 2016, we have seen a **32% increase** in number of reports of elder abuse—with a **38% increase** in substantiated, or proven, claims of abuse.

- The age group most reported to be in need of protective services in PA were those between the ages of **81–90** and **almost half** of them lived in their own homes.
- **46.8%** of perpetrators of abuse were between the ages of 30–59 and **16.7%** were identified as family members.
- The most common substantiated forms of abuse were: **self-neglect, caregiver neglect, financial exploitation, physical, and emotional abuse.**

Reporting Abuse

In the state of Pennsylvania, if you work with and suspect abuse of an individual over the age of 60—you are mandated to report it to the appropriate authorities.

PA Statewide Elder Abuse Hotline

1-800-490-8505

- If you believe an adult is being abuse and their life is in imminent danger, call 911 immediately! Then report directly to protective services.

To make a report you may need to know:

- Age of the victim
- Address of the victim
- Victim's level of physical/mental capacity
- Date of the incident
- Whether or not there are weapons present in the home, if there is a history of drug/alcohol abuse or domestic violence in the home.
- How the alleged perpetrator might react to a worker coming to the home
- What the best times to visit may be

Failure to report suspected abuse is a crime.



In Kindness & Diversity
District 14p Chester &
Berks County



 CURRAN ESTATE LAW
CURRAN ESTATE & ELDER LAW, PLLC

ELDER ABUSE SYMPOSIUM

‘SILENT NO LONGER’

<https://youtu.be/yYXqtX0QUnQ>

OUR PARTNERS

**Chester County
Department of Aging**
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Local(610) 344-6350

**Domestic Violence Center
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Toll-Free: 1-888-711-6270
Local(610) 431-1430

U.S. Senator Bob Casey
Local (215) 405-9660
Toll-Free: 1-866-461-9159
Toll-Free: 1-855-303-9470

**District Attorney of
Berks County**
Local(610) 478-6000
Toll-Free 1-800-490-8505

Curran Estate & Elder Law
Local (610) 406-5377
Reading, PA