

Our VISION

A COMMUNITY IN WHICH PEOPLE IN LATER LIFE CAN LIVE IN SAFETY, DIGNITY AND RESPECT.

Our MISSION

1. To increase public awareness of Elder Abuse.
2. To reduce elder abuse and neglect in the Des Moines and Normandy Park communities through co-ordination of resources, support and response.

Preventing Elder Abuse



Is In Your Hands

If you know or suspect a senior is being abused

Contact:
If it's an Emergency . . . 911

In All Cases Call
24HR State Agency Personnel
Confidential Reporting
1-866-END-HARM
(363-4276)

For Nursing, Adult and
Boarding Homes Residents
1-800-562-6078

For Information & Advocacy
Elder Watch 253-946-7338
(not 24hr hot line)
or on-line info at
www.publicsafe.org/elderwatch

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

Just as child abuse and drunk driving have been reduced due to public awareness and involvement, Elder Abuse needs YOUR attention.

Elder Abuse exists only in secretive and ignored situations. By simply recognizing it exists, knowing the signs of abuse, and REPORTING, YOU can help prevent more Elder victims.



Advocacy Program

The "Elder Watch" Advocacy Program is a joint effort of the South King Fire & Rescue, Des Moines Senior Advisory Committee, Des Moines Police Department, Normandy Park Police Department, Enhanced Public Safety Committee, publicsafe.org, and, other Safety Response Personnel to provide advocacy for elderly victims of crime.

S I G N S O F A B U S E

PHYSICAL & EMOTIONAL

Is intentionally causing pain and suffering and/or injury to a elderly adult. Abuse can be physical or mental. Signs can include:

- unexplained injuries or behavior
- elderly adult appears afraid of a person or circumstances
- significant weight loss or gain that is not attributed to other causes
- stress-related conditions, including elevated blood pressure

SEXUAL

Sexual abuse is any form of non-consensual physical contact. It includes rape, molestation, or any sexual conduct with a person who lacks the mental capacity to exercise consent. Signs can include:

- inappropriate sex-role relationship between victim and suspect
- genital or anal pain, irritation, bleeding or bruising
- difficulty walking or sitting
- torn, stained, or bloody underclothing
- sexually transmitted diseases

NEGLECT

Neglect is the failure of caregivers to fulfill their responsibilities to provide needed care. SELF NEGLECT is the person's own failure to maintain health and safety. Signs can include:

- untreated injuries or health
- sudden decline in physical appearance
- unsafe living conditions
- signs of medication mismanagement, including empty or unmarked bottles or outdated prescriptions



FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

Is intentionally taking advantage of a elderly adult financially. Signs can include:

- disappearance of possessions or property
- sudden transfer of money unauthorized use of bank cards, and/or forged signature on checks
- undue influence or coercion

Elder Watch Can Provide

- Victims rights information
- Can help with information about the investigation
- Assistance with application for victims compensation benefits
- Liaison with prosecuting attorney's office
- Referrals to other community agencies and resources that assist victims
- Assistance in getting property returned
- Court support through the criminal justice process

How Can "I" Help Prevent Elder Abuse?

Know the signs of abuse, it is a first step toward protecting elders.

- Specifically, become a community volunteer.
- Keep a watchful eye out for loved ones, friends or neighbors who may be vulnerable.
- Speak up if you have concerns. Even if you are not sure, you have a right to question.
- Be involved. Volunteer with elder adults in your community.

An Advocate Is Your Voice...www.publicsafe.org/elderwatch