

What is Elder Abuse?

...inaction by a person(s)
...jeopardizes the health
...causing harm or

...ing

Medicine Hat & Area Elder Abuse Prevention Coalition



Mission Statement

To work collaboratively to address Elder Abuse.

Vision Statement

Our Vision is to have a Coordinated Community Response Model that provides a grass roots approach to efficiently and effectively end Elder Abuse.

Other Important Numbers

Regular office hours

- Meals on Wheels
403.525.8885
- Office of the Public Guardian for Personal Directives, Guardianship and/or Trusteeship
403.529.3744 or 1.877.427.4525
- Protection for Persons in Care Reporting Line
1.888.357.9339
- Veiner Centre, Senior Centre
403.529.8307

Sexual Abuse

Is any unwanted form of sexual activity, behaviour, assault, or harassment of an Older Adult. Any unwanted sexual contact is Sexual Assault which is a Criminal Code Offense.

Emotional/Psychological Abuse

Diminishes the identity and self-worth of Older Adults. It can also provoke intense fear, anxiety or debilitating stress.

Call for Help

24 hours a day/7 days a week:

Emergency **911**

Family Violence Information Line:
Free **310.1818** (in 180 Languages)

Information & Referral
211 (in 180 Languages)

Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society (MHWSS)
1.800.661.7949 or 403.529.1091

Medicine Hat Police Services:
Safe Families Intervention Team (SFIT)
403.529.8400

Medicine Hat Regional Hospital
403.529.8000

Sexual Assault AB Crisis Line
1.866.403.8000 (Call or Text)

Physical Abuse

Is the use of physical force causing discomfort, which may or may not result in bodily injury, rough handling, physical pain or impairment.

Statistics

- The prevalence rate of Elder Abuse in Canada is 8% (2015 National Survey)
- 11, 125 Seniors reside in Medicine Hat (2016 Census)
- That means 990 Seniors in our community are experiencing abuse.

Indicators of Abuse or Neglect

may include:

- An Older Adult tells you they are being abused
- Unexplained injuries- frequent falls
- Caregiver/family member exhibiting power over an Older Adult
- Changes in behaviour such as isolation, fear, missing regular activities
- Change in living arrangements- relative or stranger suddenly moves in
- Financial changes-unpaid bills, missing money
- Older Adult is often isolated without water, food, glasses, hearing aids and/or clothing.
- Intentional improper use of medications or with holding of medications
- Blaming the Older Adult- "this is your fault"
- Depression, anxiety or thoughts of suicide such as not wanting to live any longer

Spiritual Abuse

- Is any act of ridiculing religious or spiritual beliefs
- Denying or Forcing participation in religious services or activities.

Websites for more information:

- Alberta Elder Abuse Awareness Council:
<https://www.albertaelderabuse.ca/>
- Government of Alberta:
<https://www.alberta.ca/get-help-elder-abuse.aspx>
- Office of the AB Seniors Advocate
<https://seniorsadvocateab.ca/information/social-supports/elder-abuse>

Financial Abuse

- Is the misuse of an Older Adult's funds or property through fraud, trickery, force or theft. Can be difficult to detect because it often occurs over a period of time.
- Financial Abuse is the most common type of Elder Abuse
- Family members are the most common type of abusers

A personal Directive is recommended for everyone 18 years of age and older.

ELDER ABUSE RESOURCE

The Elder Abuse Prevention Coalition
is a group of key stakeholders
from Medicine Hat and Area
This project has been funded by the



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Abusive Behaviour

may include:

- Your actions that cause an Older Adult to be afraid of you
- Making decisions for a capable person or speaking for them
- Taking or feeling entitled to a person's possessions and/or money
- Ignoring an Older Adults' feelings
- Controlling behaviour such as; Insults, Isolating, Blaming, Threatening, or Striking
- Treating an Older Adult like a child
- Abandoning a dependant Older Adult for long periods of time
- Isolating or denying an Older Adult visitors or phone calls

What is Elder Abuse?

Elder Abuse is any action or inaction by a person(s) in a trusting relationship that jeopardizes the health or well being of an Older Adult causing harm or distress.

Elder Abuse can take several forms including financial, psychological or emotional, sexual, spiritual and/or neglect.

**Not all abuse is criminal,
but all abuse is wrong.**