

What Can You Do As A Concerned Friend Or Family Member?

Call and visit often to be aware of what is happening.

If you are noticing bruises or injuries that aren't consistent with the reported events ask the elderly/vulnerable person privately

Medications: Take a look at the prescriptions. Are they requiring constant refilling before the refill date, or medications remain in the bottle un-taken, outdated medications.

Talk to and attempt to understand what is happening from their perspective.

If you suspect abuse, report it!

Signs Of A Person Who May Be An Abuser:

Won't allow the elderly/vulnerable adult to speak for themselves or insists on being present or listening into the visit or phone call at all times.

Withholding of basic needs or money as a way to control the elderly/vulnerable adult.

Socially isolating the elderly/vulnerable adult from family or friends.

Conflicting story of financial situation or occurrence of an injury.

Unwilling or reluctant to have services or service providers in the home to help with planning of care.



Approximately 1 in 10 Americans aged 60+ have experienced some form of elder abuse.

Juneau County Hours

Monday—Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**For after hour
emergencies, call
(608) 847-6161**

Juneau County Department of Human Services

200 Hickory St.
Mauston, Wisconsin 53948

Intake: (608) 847-847-9371

Assigned Case Worker:

(608) 847-2400

Fax: (608)847-9421

JUNEAU COUNTY

Department of Human Services



A Pocket Guide On Elder/ Vulnerable Adult Abuse And Neglect

Adults

Ages 18+

About Elder/Vulnerable Adult Abuse and Neglect

Financial Exploitation:

Use of a persons personal checks, credit cards, or accounts for their own needs as if the money belonged to them.

Announcements of a “prize” that the elderly person has won but must pay for is more than likely a scam

Self Neglect:

Failure to provide essential basic care needs that threatens his/her own health and safety

Care Taker Neglect:

Failure to provide food, shelter, health care or protection by a person whose agreed to take on the responsibility.

Physical Abuse:

Inflicting physical pain or injury

Hoarding Of Animals Or Possessions:

Is a sign of untreated anxiety or untreated depression. Help through a Mental Health Therapist should be encouraged. He or she must be willing to accept the help or see that there is a need for help.

What Happens During an Elder/Vulnerable Abuse Investigation Depends On The Reported Abuse And The Willingness Of The Elder/Vulnerable Adult:

A visit to the residence of the elder/vulnerable person at risk. This is to obtain their viewpoint, their strengths, their concerns and needs.

The visit is private unless the elderly person is requesting otherwise.

Interviewing other people may be necessary. Such as a care taker, physician, neighbors or financial institution. These occur with the knowledge of the elder/vulnerable adult and with signed release of information is necessary.

In cases of financial exploitation the local police department may become involved to investigate and determine what type of crime was committed.

The Juneau County Adult Protective Service Unit cannot investigate allegations of care taker abuse to elders or vulnerable adults who reside in Community Based Residential Facilities or Nursing Homes. These concerns should be directed to the State Department of Health and Family Services.

What You Need To Understand As The Person Calling To Report Abuse

As difficult as it may seem a competent adult has the right to refuse the investigation and refuse services.

The alleged victim may refuse to admit there is abuse occurring as they may be afraid of retaliation, being believed by others, having to leave their home and/or feeling ashamed that the abuse occurred.

In most situations it is important for family or friends to remain involved and to provide emotional support and encouragement. Assist the person in considering other alternatives to what their situation currently is. Don't expect changes overnight.

An elder/vulnerable adult has a right to live in an environment that is consistent with their lifestyle and cultural choices.

