

Common signs of elder abuse

1

Financial

Unexplained disappearances of belongings
Inability to pay bills
Significant bank withdrawals and/or changes to will
Inability of an older person to access bank accounts or statements
Stockpiling of unpaid bills
Disparity between living conditions and money
No money to pay for essentials for the home including food, clothing and utilities.

2

Psychological

Resignation, shame
Depression, tearfulness
Confusion, agitation, and social isolation
Disrupted appetite or sleep patterns
Unusual passivity or anger
Sadness or grief at the loss of interactions with others
Social withdrawal
Changes in levels of self-esteem
Worry or anxiety after a visit by specific person/people.

3

Neglect

Inadequate clothing
Complaints of being too cold or too hot
Poor personal hygiene, unkempt appearance
Lack of medical or dental care, or injuries that have not been properly cared for
Absence of required aids
Exposure to unsafe, unhealthy, and/or unsanitary conditions
Unexplained weight loss, dehydration, poor skin integrity, malnutrition.

4

Physical

Internal or external injuries (sprains, dislocations and fractures, pressure sores, unexplained bruises or marks on different areas of the body, pain on touching)
Broken or healing bones
Lacerations to mouth, lips, gums, eyes or ears; missing teeth and/or eye injuries
Evidence of hitting, punching, shaking, pulling, e.g. bruises lacerations, choke marks, hair loss or welts
Burns, e.g. rope, cigarettes, matches, iron, and/or hot water.

5

Sexual

Unexplained STD or incontinence (bladder or bowel)
Injury and trauma, e.g. scratches, bruises etc. to face, neck, chest, abdomen, thighs or buttocks
Trauma including bleeding around the genitals, chest, rectum or mouth.
Human bite marks
Anxiety around the perpetrator.



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