

***You are not alone... and it is never your fault!***

**Are you experiencing:**

- Intimidation: Someone forcing or coercing you into doing something you don't want to do?
- Isolation: Someone keeping you from family, friends, community and others?
- Someone limiting or withholding your access to necessary items?
- Someone throwing things, shoving you, hitting you, or choking you?
- Someone creating an atmosphere where you feel you are walking on egg shells?
- Someone taking your money without permission, making you withdraw money or refusing to give you money?

**Anyone can be the victim of abuse.  
Everyone deserves to be safe.**



***If you are a victim of abuse...***

- Talk to someone you trust such as your doctor, religious leader or close friend.
- Physicians have a legal obligation to report abuse and to help you find safety.
- If you are in immediate danger, call **911**.

**IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

***Department of Human Services***

- Adult Protective Services (269) 467-1250  
After Hours (269) 467-4195

***Domestic and Sexual Abuse Services***

(269) 279-5122  
Toll Free (800) 828-2023

***Central Dispatch***

- For a Police Department or Sheriff  
(269) 467-4195

***Vulnerable Adult Helpline***

(800) 996-6228

***Legal Hotline for Michigan Seniors***

(800) 347-5297

**CALL 9-1-1 IF YOU ARE IN IMMEDIATE DANGER**

Officer's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Badge # \_\_\_\_\_

Complaint # \_\_\_\_\_

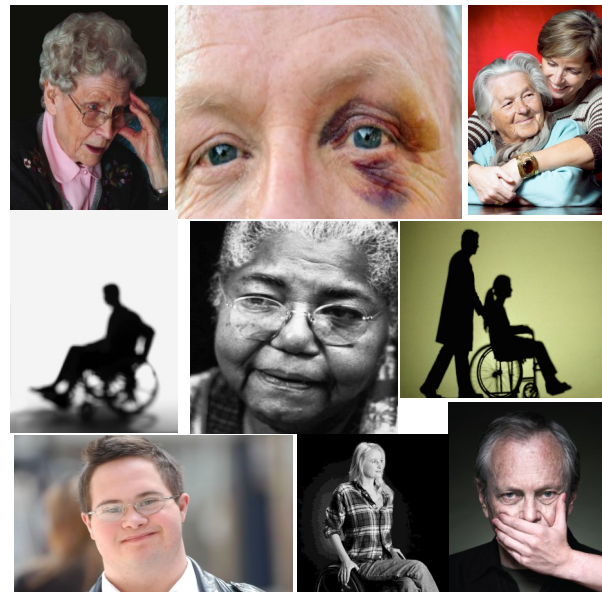
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**St. Joseph County  
Michigan**

**Are You or Someone You  
Know a Vulnerable Adult  
Being:**

**Abused,  
Neglected,  
Exploited?**



**What You Need to Know  
And  
Where to Find Help**

## WHAT IS ...

- ◆ **Abuse:** is a method used to gain power and control over another person. Abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional, psychological or financial.
- ◆ **Sexual Abuse:** includes any sexual act that you did not give your consent to that is forced., coerced, or manipulated.
- ◆ **Physical Abuse:** includes actions such as shoving, punching, slapping, hitting, or kicking; denying sleep, food and drink, or medical care.
- ◆ **Emotional or Psychological Abuse:** includes calling names, making threats of physical or sexual violence, blaming you for the violence, showing extreme jealousy and possessiveness or isolating you from family and friends.
- ◆ **Domestic Violence:** is any type of abuse within an intimate relationship.
- ◆ **Neglect:** Harm to an adult's health or welfare caused by the inability of the adult to respond to a harmful situation or by the conduct of a person who assumes responsibility for a significant aspect of the adult's health or welfare. Neglect includes the failure to provide adequate food, clothing shelter, or medical care.
- ◆ **Exploitation:** An action that involved the misuse of an adult's funds, property, or personal dignity by another person.
- ◆ **Fraud:** An act of deceiving or misrepresenting a product, service or identity in order to take advantage (financial or otherwise) of a person.

## WHERE TO TURN FOR HELP...

Many victims suffer in silence out of fear, shame, dependence on their caregiver or because they do not know there is help available.

There are many services and programs to help vulnerable adults stay in their homes and live free from abuse and neglect.

If someone you know is being hurt, please encourage them to talk to someone so that help can be given.

## WHEN TO REPORT...

Make a report to Adult Protective Services as soon as there is a suspicion of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation.

**REPORTS CAN BE MADE CONFIDENTIALLY & ANONYMOUSLY TO APS AT (269) 467-1250**

## WHAT ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES DOES

APS begins an investigation promptly.

The APS worker may help you in various ways:

- ◆ Getting medical or legal help
- ◆ Finding housing
- ◆ Arranging financial assistance
- ◆ Involving other agencies, or
- ◆ Talking over problems

The APS worker must try to arrange services that allow you to be as independent as possible. An APS worker cannot force you to accept any service or placement against your will.

## WHAT DOES FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION LOOK LIKE?

- ◆ Anyone can be scammed or exploited by family, friends, acquaintances or by a stranger.
- ◆ Everyone should protect their personal information including social security, credit card and bank account numbers.
- ◆ Don't be afraid to ask questions if you experience changes in finances, missing checks, unexplained withdrawals, credit card charges or property transfers or missing personal items.

## BEWARE OF FRAUD...

- ◆ Scammers may use mail, phone calls, email, door-to-door sales or TV ads. Be leery of receiving fake personal bills or charity requests.
- ◆ Scammers may offer money, rewards, free trips, home repairs or other services. **Never** send money to claim or "win" a prize.
- ◆ **Never** accept a sales pitch that promises something for nothing.

