

Elder Abuse



As a caregiver, you are a mandated reporter. This means, that while working with the elderly and those that are disabled you are responsible for monitoring their wellbeing and reporting anything that you suspect to be abuse and neglect. Mandated reporters are required by law to report any and all suspected abuse.

Disabled Persons Protection Commission (DPPC)

Phone: 1-800-426-9009 Ages 18 to 59

Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA)

Phone: 1-800-922-2275 Ages 60 & above

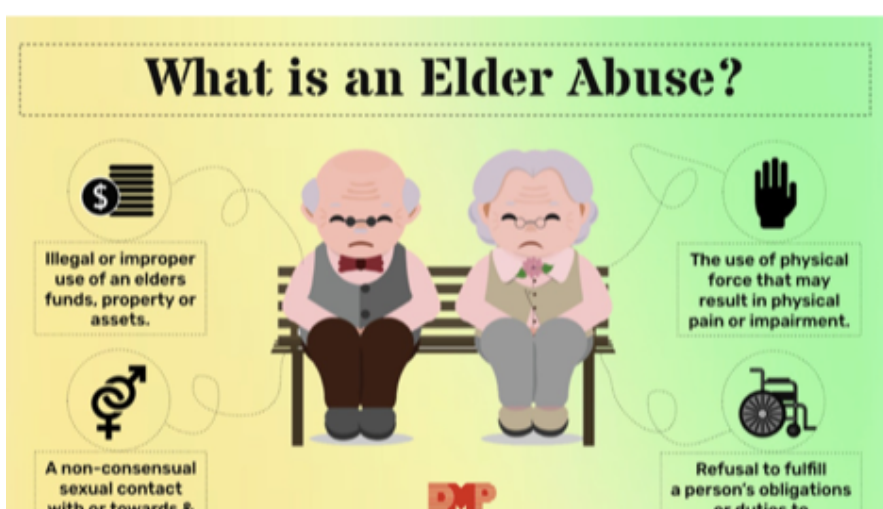
Department of Public Health (DPH)

Phone: 1-800-462-5540 for Patients in Long Term Care Facilities

Call **911** if in an emergency or if you think crime has been committed

The above departments are responsible to screen and investigate your calls and reports. They will ensure appropriate protective services are put in place, provide training and education, and provide assistance and clarification to any potential case.

If you are unsure if the situation would be considered abuse or neglect, do not hesitate to call, they will listen and use their training and experience to decide if the situation should be further investigated.



Mandated reporters can report suspected elder abuse over the phone or online. Form is located here---
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/elder-abuse-mandated-reporter-form/download>

If a mandated reporter makes a verbal report over the phone, they must submit an Elder Abuse Mandated Reporter Form to the local Protective Services agency within 48 hours. Mandated reporters are not required to submit the form if they report suspected abuse online.



Abuse or neglect committed against a person with a disability might also be a crime. Call your local police immediately if you think a crime, such as an assault & battery, sexual assault, rape or larceny has been committed. In an emergency, contact your local police department by dialing 911.

Protection for mandated reporters who report abuse
Mandated Reporters are immune from civil or criminal liability as a result of filing a report of abuse committed against a person with a disability. Non-mandated reporters are also protected providing the report was made in good faith. If a Mandated Reporter is retaliated against by their employer for filing an alleged report of abuse, or by participating in the DPPC investigation, DPPC will conduct an investigation into the retaliation.

Consequences for not reporting crime, abuse and neglect committed against persons with disabilities

In Massachusetts, Mandated Reporters can be fined up to \$1,000 for failure to report incidences of suspected abuse and neglect of children, elders, and individuals with disabilities.

The failure to report crimes and incidences of suspected abuse and neglect committed against persons with disabilities can result in severe consequences for the alleged victim, other potential victims, and the Mandated Reporter. Victims of abuse and neglect are at increased risk of further abuse, if it goes unreported. The frequency and severity of abuse and neglect are likely to increase over time if no intervention is made. A failure to intervene by not reporting will likely result in other individuals being abused and neglected.

Six Types of Elder Abuse Exist

Physical Hitting, kicking, pushing, slapping, burning, or force causing injury	Sexual Engaging in sexual act without consent	Emotional Harming self-worth or emotional well-being, name calling, & scaring
Neglect Failing to meet basic needs like food, housing, clothing, & medical care	Abandonment Leaving elder alone or no longer providing care	Financial Illegally misusing an elder's money, property, or assets

Learn how signs of elder abuse differ from normal aging to prevent elder abuse before it happens.



What should you do if a client reports abuse or neglect to you

- Be calm and supportive
- Never agree to keep the information secret
- Seek privacy so the individual is protected from disclosing in public
- Assure the individual that she/he did the right thing by telling you about the allegation
- Never blame the victim
- Do not investigate
- Immediately report the suspected abuse or neglect



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