

Signs and Symptoms of Elder Abuse

General behaviors that a person experiencing abuse may exhibit include:

- Afraid of one or many person/s
- Irritable or easily upset
- Worried or anxious for no obvious reason
- Depressed, apathetic or withdrawn
- Change in sleep patterns and/or eating habits
- Rigid posture and avoiding contact
- Contradictory statements not from mental confusion
- Reluctance to talk openly.

Signs and symptoms of *Physical Abuse* may include:

- A history of physical abuse or accidents or injuries
- Injuries such as skin trauma including bruising, skin tears, burns, welts or fractures, bed sores, ulcers
- Signs of restraint/s at the wrists and or waist.

Signs and symptoms of *Sexual Abuse* may include:

- Bruising around the breasts or genital area
- Unexplained genital infections
- Damaged or bloody underclothing
- Vaginal bleeding not associated with menses
- Bruising on the inner thighs
- Difficulty in walking or sitting.

Signs and symptoms of *Psychological Abuse* may include:

- Reluctance to talk, fear, anxiety, nervousness, apathy, resignation, withdrawal, avoidance of eye contact
- Rocking or huddling up
- Loss of interest in self or environment
- Insomnia/sleep deprivation
- Paranoid behavior or confusion not associated with illness.

Signs and symptoms of *Neglect* may include:

- History of neglect
- Poor hygiene, bad odour, urine rash
- Mal-nourishment, weight loss, dehydration (dark urine, dry tongue, lax skin)