**SAINT ELIZABETH HAVEN FOR ELDER JUSTICE**

**QUICK REFERENCE MANUAL FOR DIRECT SERVICE PROVIDERS**

**INFORMATION AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

**FOR VICTIMS OF ELDER ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION**



A program of the Saint Elizabeth Community

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**IS ELDER ABUSE A CRIME?**

Abuse of an older adult or vulnerable person is a crime under RI Adult Protective Services law **RI General Law 46-66.**

\*An ***older adult*** is a person 60 years or older.

\*A ***vulnerable person*** is 18 years or older, suffers from physical or mental incapacitation that restricts the ability to perform normal daily living activities.

**The law mandates that anyone who suspects the abuse of an older person must report it to the Adult Protective Services Unit (401-462-0555) and abuse of a vulnerable person must be reported to the Dept. of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (401) 462-2629.**

**WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE**? **Elder Abuse is any form of intentional or neglectful act by a caregiver or trusted individual that leads to harm or loss to an older person. Only one case in 14 is reported to authorities.**

**TYPES** **SOME SIGNS**

**PHYSICAL ABUSE** **is physical force that results in bodily Unexplained fractures, bruises, cuts; broken**

**injury, pain, or impairment. It includes assault, battery, glasses; failure to give medication; signs of**

**and inappropriate restraints, reported drug overdose or restraints; refusal of caregiver to allow you to see**

**confinement. the elder alone**

**SEXUAL ABUSE** **is non-consensual sexual contact of Bruises around breast/genitals; unexplained**

**any kind with an older person. venereal disease or genital infections; unexplained vaginal/anal bleeding; torn, stained, bloody underwear**

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** **is an escalating pattern of Name calling, disrespect, blaming, stalking,**

**violence by an intimate partner where the violence is isolation, economic control**

**used to exercise power and control.**

**PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE** **is the willful infliction of Threatening, belittling, or controlling caregiver**

**mental or emotional anguish by threat, humiliation, that you witness; elder behavior such as rocking,**

**or isolation. sucking, or mumbling to oneself; verbal or nonverbal conduct**

**VERBAL ABUSE is the willful infliction of Insults, humiliation, threats as attempts to scare, unjustifiable mental suffering through word and body isolation, control**

**language.**

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**FINANCIAL ABUSE** **is the illegal or improper use of an Misuse of elder’s checks, credit cards, or accounts;**

**older person’s funds, property, or resources. stolen cash, income checks, or household goods; forged elder’s signature; identity theft; improper use of power of attorney**

**INTENTIONAL NEGLECT** **is the failure of a caregiver Dehydration, malnutrition; untreated medical**

**to fulfill his or her care giving responsibilities. problems like bed sores; unsanitary living**

**conditions like dirt, bugs, soiled bedding and**

**clothes; abandonment**

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**IMPORTANT TERMS AND DEFINITIONS**

**Capacity to Consent:** mental ability to make rational decisions that include the ability to perceive, appreciate all relevant facts and to reach a rational judgement upon such facts. A decision to refuse services cannot be the sole evidence for finding the person lacks capacity.

**Caretaker:** an individual who helps a person with acts of daily living. It could be a professional, family member, friend.

**Vulnerable Person:**  a person 18 years or older who suffers from a condition of physical or mental incapacitation because of a developmental disability, organic brain damage or mental illness; or has one or more physical or mental limitations that restrict the ability of the person to perform the normal activities of daily living.

**Orders of Protection (Restraining Orders):** court ordered protection prevents a person or persons from physical, mental, verbal, or other abuse. Victim must go to local courthouse, fill out paperwork, including sworn affidavit, and wait for the judge to review and approve the order. Domestic Violence Court Advocates in the courthouses in Providence, Wakefield, Newport and Warwick will assist victims through the process. Advocate information is located below.

**Power of Attorney (POA):** a legal document used by an older adult to give another person the authority to act for the older adult. The older adult must have decision-making capacity to sign a power of attorney (POA). The older adult can revoke the POA or it expires upon the older adult’s death. A durable POA remains in effect if the older adult loses decision-making capacity. Contact RI Legal Services for more information. See contact information located below.

It is difficult to check the validity of a POA document without further investigation. The POA should have 2 witness signatures and is notarized. If the POA comes from a legal office, contact the lawyer for confirmation.

A financial institution may also check the signature against financial records.

**Guardianship:** probatecourt may appoint someone to make personal and/or financial decisions for an older adult if the judge decides the person lacks capacity to make decisions. The Guardian has a legal duty to make decisions for the older adult consistent with the decisions made by the older adult before becoming incapacitated. Contact the Office of Healthy Aging for more information about Guardianships or RI Legal Services. Find contact information below.

**Office of Healthy Aging RI Legal Services**

**401-462-0555 401-274-2652**

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**WHEN YOU RESPOND TO A CALL INVOLVING AN OLDER ADULT, REMEMBER: (1) FEAR MAY PREVENT AN ELDER FROM TELLING WHAT IS REALLY HAPPENING, AND (2) THE CAREGIVER OR FAMILY MEMBER MAY BE THE PERPETRATOR.**

Focus on victim safety first! Be aware of and avoid assumptions about the situation and the elder. Recognize abuser tactics and stay focused on the elder’s safety. Work collaboratively with Adult Protective Services, elder justice and domestic violence advocates, sexual assault advocates, health care and victim service providers.

**COMMUNITY RESOURCES for ELDER ASSISTANCE**

**FIRST RESPONDERS SHELTERS**

**911** **Haven Shelter 401-244-5476**

*Emergency response system linked to police,* **Saint Elizabeth Haven for** M-F, 8am – 4pm

*fire and EMTs* **Elder Justice**

*Temporary shelter for elder victims, case management* **Hospital Emergency Rooms** **911**  *and safety planning support, case coordination for*

*Assess elders for injuries, illnesses and abuse* *elder victims in shelter or living in the community*

**REPORT ABUSE**

**Crossroads RI** 24hr/7days/week **www.crossroadsri.org**

**Adult Protective Services (APS)** **401-462-0555** *Homeless shelter, domestic violence program*

**Office of Healthy Aging (OHA)** 24hr/7days/week

*Investigates**elder abuse and self-neglect complaints,*  **Domestic Violence Shelters**

*refers to police, office of attorney general, hospitals* *Victim services including emergency shelter,*

*and* *victim service agencies*  *support groups, counseling services and*

*help with legal system*

24hr/7days/week

**RI Dept. of Behavioral Healthcare,** **401-462-2629** Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center 401-723-3057

**Developmental Disabilities** Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center 401-738-1700

**and Hospitals (BHDDH)** Domestic Violence Resource Center 401-782-3990

*Investigates complaints of abuse and neglect of* Sojourner House 401-765-3232

*disabled persons, refers to police, office of attorney* Women’s Resource Center of SC 401-846-5263 *general, hospitals; works with APS when person is age 60 and over*

**Operation Stand Down 401-383-4730** *Support for homeless and at risk veterans in need of* *housing, case management and support services*

**Long Term Care Ombudsman**  **401-785-3340 MENTAL HEALTH INTERVENTION**

**Toll Free 1-888-351-0808**

*Investigates abuse complaints by elders and the* **BH Link401- 414-5465** 24hr/7 Crisis Support

*disabled in the long-term care system; advocates Immediate mental health intervention and assistance*

*to solve problems**in a crisis*

**INFORMATION AND REFERRAL IMMIGRANT/TRANSLATION SERVICES**

**Aging and Disability Resource**  **401-462-4444 Center for Southeast Asians** **401-274-8811**

**Centers (The Point)**  24hr/7days/week *Victim services, interpreters,*

*Information and referral services for elders and advocacy and support services*

*disabled, age 60 and older*

**Progreso Latino** **401-728-5920**

**United Way** 24hr/7days/week **211** Bilingual services for elders

*Information and referral services and disabled over age 60*

**Crime Victim (Elder Abuse Resource) Helpline Dorcas International Institute 401-784-8600**  24/7 **1-800-494-8100** *Bilingual services, interpreter,*

*Information and referral services for older victims immigration services*

**CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES PROSECUTION**

**RI Legal Services**  **401-274-2652 RI Office of the Attorney General 401-274-4400**

**Elder Protection Project** M – F, 8:30am – 6 pm **Elder Abuse Unit**

*Legal assistance to protect elders from abuse; Investigates and prosecutes crimes against*

*outreach to underserved-populations (at no cost) persons age 60 and older*

**VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDERS**

**RI Dept. of Behavioral Healthcare,** **401-462-2629**  **Elder Protective Service** **Case Management Agencies**

**Development Disabilities**  24hr/7days/week *Case Management services for elders, age 60 and*

**and Hospitals (BHDDH)**  *older, who are victims of abuse or self-neglect*

*Support services and advocacy for disabled*

*victims of abuse* Child and Family Service Newport 401-849-2300

Child and Family Service Providence 401-781-3669

**Tri-County CAP** **401-441-6325** East Bay Community Action Newport 401-847-7821

**Deaf Victim Advocates** East Providence 401-437-1000

*Support and advocacy services for D/deaf*, hard Tri County Community Action 401-519-1940

*of hearing, and deaf/blind victims of crime* 401-351-2750

Westbay Community Action 401-732-4660

**Pride in Aging RI** [**info@prideinagingri.org**](mailto:info@prideinagingri.org)

*Service, advocacy and education for Gay, Lesbian,* *Bisexual and Transgender Elders* **RI Office of the Attorney General** **401-274-4400**

**Victim Service Unit**

*Supports victims of felony crime, guidance through the*

*stages of criminal justice process, referrals to victim*

*service providers, accompany victims to court*

**Family Service of RI** **401-519-2280**

*Advocates for and assists*

*victims of crime*

**Saint Elizabeth Haven for Elder** **401-244-5476**

**RI Coalition against** **401-467-9940** **Justice Community Program**

**Domestic** **Violence** 24/7 **1-800-494-8100** *Advocacy, case management, safety planning for*

*Information, support, advocacy for victims of victims in the community*

domestic violence/sexual assault

**Day One: Sexual Assault & 401-421-4100 Domestic Violence Court Advocates:**  **Trauma Resource**

*Victim support, victim rights information, referral,* **Center** 24h/7 **1-800-494-8100**

*help with protective orders, monitor treatment by Support, information and advocacy for victims of*

*the court, coordinate services* for sexual assault victims *sexual assault*

M – F, 8:30am – 4:00 pm

Kent County 401-822-6680

Providence County 401-458-3372

Washington County 401-782-4173/401-782-4174

Newport County 401-236-8364

**Cybercrime Support Network** **211**

*Report and receive support services for*

*cybercrime and online fraud*

**Crime Victim Compensation Program** **401-462-7655**

*Provides up to $25,000 in reimbursement*

*for expenses related to violent crimes*

**Department of Children, Youth** **1-800-742-4453 R I Office of Mental Health Advocate 401-462-2003**

**& Families (DCYF)** 24hr/7days/7week*Advocacy, legal representation for individuals*

*Refers to the Child Protective Services unit to with mental health illness*

*investigate any reports on abuse or neglect*

*on children and youth*

**NATIONAL ELDER ABUSE RESOURCES**

**Contact the organizations below for information about elder abuse, research results, best practices and training materials:**

**National Clearinghouse to End Abuse in Later Life (NCALL)**

[**www.ncall.us**](http://www.ncall.us)

**National Center on Elder Abuse National Institute on Aging**

[**www.ncea.acl.gov**](http://www.ncea.acl.gov)[**www.nia.nih.gov**](http://www.nia.nih.gov)

**Add additional resources as you encounter them:**

**NOTES**

For further information, or assistance, please contact:

The Saint Elizabeth Haven for Elder Justice

401 244 5473