Identifying Elder Abuse

**Things to Remember:**

* These signs do not necessarily mean elder abuse is occurring, but it could be
* Multiple forms of abuse often occur together
* Take allegations of abuse seriously!

**For More Information:**

* www.ncall.us

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Type of Abuse** | **Some Signs Abuse Might Be Occurring** |
| Physical Abuse | * Bruises, black eyes, welts, lacerations, and rope marks * Broken bones and bone or skull fractures |
| Emotional Abuse | * Being extremely withdrawn and non communicative or non responsive * Being emotionally upset or agitated |
| Sexual Abuse | * Bruises or bleeding around the breasts, genitals, or anus * Unexplained venereal disease or genital infections |
| Neglect | * Unsanitary and unsafe living conditions * Unattended or untreated health problems |
| Financial Exploitation | * Unexplained withdrawal of large sums of money by a person accompanying the elder * Substandard care being provided or bills unpaid despite the availability of adequate financial resources |
| Stalking | * Appearing at a person’s home, business, or other places the victim normally frequents * Leaving multiple written notes, phone messages, e-mails |
| Abandonment | * The desertion of an elder at a hospital, a nursing facility, or other similar institution * The desertion of an elder at a shopping center or other public location |
| Self-Neglect  (not a crime - no perpetrator) | * Dehydration, malnutrition, untreated or improperly attended medical conditions, and poor personal hygiene * Grossly inadequate housing or homelessness |

Reporting Elder Abuse

Report to Adult Protective Services (APS) at 1-888-277-8366 or https://reportadultabuse.dhs.tn.gov

**Things to Remember:**

* Reporting seen or suspected elder abuse is mandatory under state law
* Reporting to APS can be done anonymously
* You can report to local law enforcement, but still report to APS

**For More Information:**

* www.tn.gov/humanservices/article/adult-protective-services

Responding to Elder Abuse

**For More Information:**

* knoxseniors.org/directory
* Joseph Winberry, Elder Abuse Community Outreach Program Manager, at 865-524-2786 or joseph.winberry@knoxseniors.org

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organization** | **Description** | **Contact** |
| CAC Office on Aging | Senior Directory, Mobile Meals, case management, and 20+ other programs | 865-524-2786  www.knoxseniors.org |
| Area Agency on Aging and Disability (AAAD) | TennCare Choices, Long Term Care Ombudsman, Caregiver Support Program, etc. | 866-836-6678  www.ethra.org/services/aging-disability |
| Family Justice Center | Orders of Protection, Safety Planning, etc. | 865-521-6336  https://fjcknoxville.com |
| East Tennessee 211 | Referral service for community resources (i.e. rent, food, etc.) | 211 or 865-215-4211  www.tn211.org |
| Helen Ross McNabb Center Domestic Violence Services | Kent C. Withers Family Crisis Center, transitional housing, advocacy, etc. | 865-637-8000  www.mcnabbcenter.org |
| Helen Ross McNabb Center  Sexual Assault Center | Sexual assault nurse examinations, therapy, advocacy, etc. | 865-522-7273  www.mcnabbcenter.org |
| Catholic Charities of East TN  Central Office | Five Rivers and Horizon Houses,  Office of Immigrant Services | 865-524-9896  https://ccetn.org |
| Catholic Charities of East TN  Samaritan Place | Emergency, Transitional and Long-Term supportive housing for seniors | 865-684-1880  https://ccetn.org |
| Legal Aid of East Tennessee | Civil legal assistance, Hispanic Outreach, etc. | 865-637-0484  www.laet.org |
| Contact Care Line | Crisis calls or daily reassurance calls for seniors in 865 area code | 865-312-7450 www.contactcarelinetn.org |
| Senior Citizen Awareness Network  (SCAN) | Visits by trained volunteers in uniform (Not available in city) | 865-215-5444  http://knoxsheriff.org |
| YWCA | Bilingual victim advocacy, housing, and senior network | 865-523-6126  www.ywcaknox.com |
| Love Kitchen | Food delivery and congregate meals | 865-546-3248  www.thelovekitchen.org |
| [Bridge Refugee Services](https://www.bridgerefugees.org/) | Case management, employment assistance, language training | 865-540-1311  www.bridgerefugees.org |
| disABILITY Resource Center | Independent living skills, transitioning to home-based living, peer support, etc. | 865-637-3666  www.drctn.org |
| Centro Hispano de East TN | Information & referral, financial education, legal advice clinic | 865-522-0052  www.centrohispanotn.org |
| Positively Living | Services for people who are homeless; mentally ill; addicted to drugs, alcohol, or other substances; and/or living with HIV/AIDS | 865-525-1540  http://positively-living.org |
| St. Ninian’s | Limited financial assistance, referrals, and religious services for LGBT people | www.saintninianswell.org |