



To those seniors, and especially elderly veterans like myself, I want to tell you this: You are not alone, and you having nothing to be ashamed of. If elder abuse happened to me, it can happen to anyone. I want you to know that you deserve better.

– Mickey Rooney

Resources:

Howard County Dept. of Social Services: Adult Protective Services
www.dhr.maryland.gov/county/howard

Maryland Department of Aging
www.aging.maryland.gov

National Center on Elder Abuse
<http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/>

Better Business Bureau
www.bbb.org

Hope Works of Howard County
<http://wearehopeworks.org>

Howard County Office of Consumer Protection
www.howardcountymd.gov/consumer



Important Phone Numbers

Howard County Department of Social Services: Adult Protective Service
(410) 872 -8823

Howard County Police Department
(410) 313-2200 (Non-Emergency)

Howard County State's Attorney's Office
(410) 313- 2108

Hope Works of Howard County
(410) 997-0304
24 hr. hotline: (410) 997-2272



Howard County
State's Attorney's Office
Carroll Building, 2nd Floor
3450 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2108

Crimes Against Seniors and Vulnerable Adults Unit

Protecting Our Seniors



What is Elder Abuse:

Elder Abuse refers to intentional or neglectful acts by a caregiver or “trusted” individual that lead to, or may lead to, harm of a vulnerable elder. – National Center on Elder Abuse

Who is a Vulnerable Adult:

An adult who lacks the physical or mental capacity to provide for the adult’s daily needs. – Annotated Code of Maryland Family Law-APS Title 14.101

Who is at Risk?

Elder abuse can occur anywhere-in the home, in nursing homes, or other institutions. It affects seniors across all socio-economic groups, cultures, and races. – National Center on Elder Abuse

THE STATS:

It is estimated that only 1 in 14 cases of elderly and vulnerable adult abuse is reported.

Each year in the United States, 1 to 2 million reports of elderly and vulnerable adult abuse is made, the real number is higher.



Every person has the right to live free from abuse, exploitation and neglect. If you suspect abuse, report it. You could save the life of another.

Red Flags of Abuse

Does someone you know –a senior or adult with disability- display any warning signs of mistreatment?



Neglect
Lack of basic hygiene, adequate food, or clean and appropriate clothing
Home cluttered, filthy, in disrepair, or having fire and safety hazards
Home without Adequate facilities
Lack of medical aids



Financial Abuse/Exploitation
Lack of amenities victim could afford
Victim giving uncharacteristically excessive financial reimbursement/gifts for care and companionship
Caregiver has control of victim’s money but is failing to provide for elder’s needs



Physical/Sexual Abuse
Inadequately explained fractures, bruises, welts, cuts, sores, burns
Unexplained sexually transmitted diseases



Psychological/Emotional
Unexplained or uncharacteristic changes in behavior
Caregiver isolates elder
Caregiver is verbally aggressive, demeaning, controlling, overly concerned, about spending