

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT

FINANCIAL ABUSE	PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE	NEGLECT	PHYSICAL ABUSE	SEXUAL ABUSE
BEHAVIOURS				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threatening, coercing re: assets or wills; • Taking control of the person’s finances against their wishes and denying access to their own money; • Abusing Powers of Attorney; • Stealing goods, e.g. jewellery, credit cards, cash, food, and other possessions; • Unauthorised use of banking and financial documents; • The recent addition of a signature on a bank account. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressuring, intimidating or bullying; • Name calling, and verbal abuse; • Treating the adult person like a child; • Threatening to harm the person, other people or pets; • Engaging in emotional blackmail such as threatening to withdraw access to grandchildren, family, friends, services, telephone or placement in an aged care facility; • Preventing contact with family and friends, or denying access to the phone or computer; • Withholding mail; • Preventing a person from engaging in religious or cultural practices; • Moving the person far away family or friends. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to provide basic needs, i.e. food, adequate or clean clothing, heating, medicines; • Under- or over-medication; • Exposure to danger or lack of supervision, such as leaving the person in an unsafe place or in isolation; • An overly attentive carer in the company of others; • Refusal to permit others to provide appropriate care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pushing, shoving, or rough handling; • Kicking, hitting, punching, slapping, biting, and/or burning; • Restraining: physical or medical; • Locking the person in a room or home or tying to a chair or bed; • Intentional injury with a weapon or object; • Overuse or misuse of medications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-consensual sexual contact, language or exploitative behaviour; • Rape and sexual assault; • Cleaning or treating the person’s genital area roughly or inappropriately; • Enforced nudity of the person against their consent.

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WARNING SIGNS TO OBSERVE

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unexplained disappearance of belongings; • Unexplained or inability to pay bills; • Significant bank withdrawals and/or changes to wills; • Inability of the person to access bank accounts or statements; • Stockpiling of unpaid bills or an empty fridge; • Disparity between living conditions and money; • No money to pay for essentials for the home including food, clothing, and utilities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resignation, shame; • Depression, tearfulness; • Confusion, agitation; • Feelings of helplessness; • Unexplained paranoia or excessive fear; • Disrupted appetite or sleep patterns, such as insomnia; • Unusual passivity or anger; • Sadness or grief at the loss of interactions with others; • Withdrawal or listlessness due to people not visiting; • Changes in levels of self-esteem; • Worry or anxiety after a visit by specific person/people; • Social isolation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate clothing, complaints of being cold or too hot; • Poor personal hygiene, unkempt appearance; • Lack of medical or dental care, or injuries that have not been properly cared for; • Absence of required aids; • Exposure to unsafe, unhealthy, and /or unsanitary conditions; • Unexplained weight loss, dehydration, poor skin integrity, malnutrition. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal or external injuries (sprains, dislocations and fractures, pressure sores, unexplained bruises or marks on different areas of the body, pain on touching); • Broken or healing bones; • Lacerations to mouth, lips, gums, eyes or ears, missing teeth and/or eye injuries; • Evidence of hitting, punching, shaking, pulling, i.e. bruises, lacerations, choke marks, hair loss or welts; • Burns, i.e. rope, cigarettes, matches, iron, and/or hot water | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unexplained STD or incontinence (bladder or bowel); • Injury and trauma, e.g. scratches, bruises etc. to face, neck, chest, abdomen, thighs or buttocks; • Trauma including bleeding around the genitals, chest, rectum or mouth; • Torn or bloody underclothing or bedding; • Human bite marks; • Anxiety around the perpetrator and other psychological symptoms |
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CASE STUDIES

These are examples of different types of abuse for educational purposes. Names and details have been changed.

ABUSE TYPE	STORY	BEHAVIOURS AND SIGNS
Financial Abuse	<p>Anna is an 82 year old woman who has a chronic illness and cannot get around easily. Her son, Tom, moved in to be Anna's carer has his marriage broke down.</p> <p>Tom does the shopping using Anna's ATM card and never shows her the receipts when she asks.</p> <p>There are unpaid bills piled on the table and Anna tells you that she cannot afford community services anymore.</p>	<p>Behaviours – Tom never shows Anna the AT receipts.</p> <p>Signs – Unpaid bills on the table and Anna wants to cancel community services.</p>
Psychological Abuse	<p>Maria is an 80 year old woman and English is not her first language. She has a recent diagnosis of depression. Maria lives with her husband Vincent, and daughter, Theresa who moved in 4 months ago. Theresa notices that her father is very controlling, puts her mother down, and refuses to take Maria to church despite her repeatedly asking.</p> <p>Theresa is concerned of her mother's safety and things she is becoming quite withdrawn. There is a history of domestic and family violence.</p>	<p>Behaviours – Vincent is verbally abusive, and is socially isolating Maria.</p> <p>Signs – Maria is becoming withdrawn.</p>
Neglect	<p>Sarah is a 35 year old woman. She has an intellectual disability and other chronic illnesses. She lives in social housing with her Mum, Jan, who is her carer and Power of Attorney.</p> <p>Jan has cancelled Sarah's disability services. Sarah's clothes are soiled and dirty and she appears to have lost weight.</p>	<p>Behaviours – Jan has cancelled disability services.</p> <p>Signs – Sarah has lost weight and has soiled, dirty clothes.</p>

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Physical Abuse	<p>George is a 78 year old man. Whilst undergoing rehabilitation for a knee replacement he has resided with his son, Ken and Ken's family.</p> <p>George has bruising on his arms and says that Ken gets angry and has grabbed him but doesn't mean anything by it.</p>	<p>Behaviours – George disclosed that Ken gets angry and has grabbed him.</p> <p>Signs – Evidence of bruising on George's arm.</p>
Sexual Abuse	<p>Tess is a 55 year old woman with a physical disability. She lives in a flat adjoining her daughter, Jackie and son-in-law John's property, and her rent is paid for by John.</p> <p>Unbeknownst to Jackie, John has been making unwelcomed visits to Tess. John exposes himself and talks about what he would like to do with Tess in a sexually explicit way. John threatens that if Tess tells her daughter, he will stop covering her rent.</p> <p>Tess wants to tell her daughter and move away, but worries it will ruin their relationship and will affect her living arrangements.</p>	<p>Behaviours – John is exposing himself, using sexually explicit language and threatening Tess.</p> <p>Signs – Tess is anxious around John and avoids being alone whenever possible.</p>