

# Elder Abuse workshop



Seniors Forum ICNA Canada



Sponsored by



Shaukat Rizvi

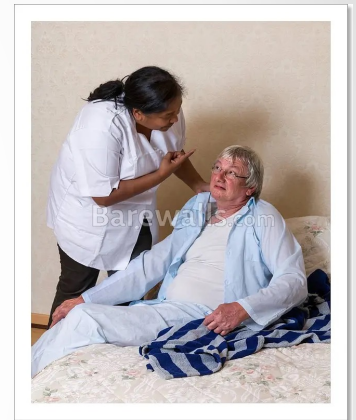
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# Elder Abuse ?

“A single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person.”

World Health Organization

**Elder abuse can happen to any older adult and in any relationship.**



bwo-6405012 Barewall



# Elder Abuse

- ❖ Elder abuse is a serious and growing injustice in our community.
- ❖ Over 200,000 (8% – 10% ) older adults in Ontario alone experiencing or at risk of elder abuse in Canada
- 33% of senior victims of police-reported violence were victimized by a family member
- **“Elder abuse and neglect should be identified as human rights abuses.”**

Human Right Organization

# Legislation on Elder Abuse

- ❖ Under the Canadian *Criminal Code*, there is no specific act that criminalizes elder abuse.
- ❖ It is illegal to harm older people in Canada.

Mistreatment of older adults is captured by general criminal law provisions within the *Criminal Code* under criminal offences:

1. Neglect cases (s. 215);
2. Manslaughter (s. 236);
3. Home invasion (ss. 344(b) and 349(1));
4. Sexual assaults (s. 271(1)); and
5. Fraud (s. 380(1)).

- **“Elder abuse and neglect should be identified as human rights abuses.”**

Human Right Organization



# Forms of Elder Abuse?

## **Financial Abuse.**

(misusing of funds and assets without full knowledge or consent)

In 2021, there were 92,371 older victims of fraud, resulting in \$1.7 billion in losses



## **Psychological Abuse**

(diminishing a sense of identity, dignity and self-worth)

## **Physical abuse**

(causing injury or physical discomfort)

## **Sexual Abuse**

(sexual behaviour directed at an older adult without their full knowledge or consent)

## **Neglect**

(intentionally withholding or not providing basic necessities or care,)

## **Systemic Abuse**

(rules, regulations, policies, or social practices that harm or discriminate against older adults.)



# Signs of Elder Abuses

- ❖ **Changes in mood** (depression, fear, anxiety )
- ❖ **Changes in behaviour** (social withdrawal and passiveness in relations)
  - ❖ **Physical harm** (unexplained injuries)
  - ❖ **Neglect** (lack of hygiene, food, clothing)
  - ❖ **Reluctance to speak about the situation**
- ❖ **Failure to meet financial obligations or unusual bank withdrawals**
- ❖ **Changes in living arrangements** ( people moving in or being forced out)



# Reporting Elder Abuse?

## HOW TO MAKE A REPORT?

For emergencies where the safety of a senior is at imminent risk, call 911.

For financially related elder abuse, call 613-236-1222 ext. 7300.

For all other forms of elder abuse, call 613-230-6211 or attend the police station nearest you.

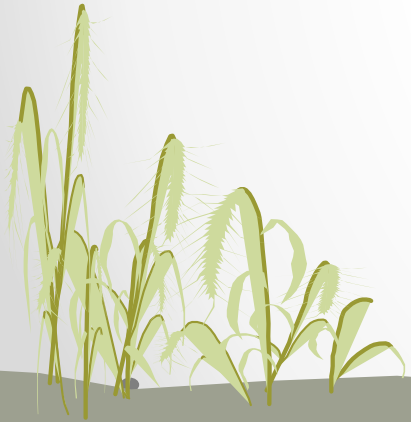
For information or advice on elder abuse, call 613-236-1222 ext. 2400.

Seniors Safety Line: 1-866-299-1011

Seniors Help Line 519-667-6600

Victim Support Line. 416-314-2447

Law Society Referral Service (LSRS) 416-947-3330





**Thanks**  
Shaukat Rizvi