

## What is Elder Abuse?

“Elder Abuse” typically refers to physical, emotional, or sexual abuse of an elderly person.

## What is Elder Neglect?

“Neglect” occurs when a caretaker, including a facility, fails to provide adequate food, shelter, clothing and/or supportive services.

## What is Financial Exploitation?

Financial exploitation involves a person taking advantage of an elderly person, resulting in advantage to the bad actor. The exploitation can be by a relative, friend, or stranger and oftentimes involves deception, e.g., scams.

**Some elderly people do not seek assistance from a lawyer because they think a lawyer cannot help them. Some think they cannot afford a lawyer.**



## How Does Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation of Elders Remain Unreported?

- People are told not to report and are afraid of the consequences of reporting.
- People rely on the person who is abusing, neglecting, or exploiting them - for care and/or financial support.
- People are afraid of getting family or friends in trouble.
- People are embarrassed by their situation.

## Montana Legal Services

**Association (MLSA)** provides free civil legal help to low-income people.

### Contact us to see if you qualify:

- Apply anytime online at [MontanaLawHelp.org](http://MontanaLawHelp.org);
- Call our Helpline at 1-800-666-6899 (Helpline hours are limited).

### What help can I find at MLSA?

- Legal advice and representation
- Referrals to volunteer attorneys and other providers
- Information regarding self-help clinics and other resources

### Need legal information or forms?

Visit [www.MontanaLawHelp.org](http://www.MontanaLawHelp.org)

## What are Some of the Warning Signs of Elder Abuse, Neglect, and/or Exploitation?

(Consider these for yourself or a person you are concerned about.)

- Finding yourself without necessary food or medical care?
- Prevented from seeing your friends or family?
- Concerned about something you bought that you don't really need or want, but that someone convinced you to buy?
- Feeling uneasy about how someone handles your money?
- Uncomfortable about how someone uses your home or property?

## How Do I Report Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation?

If you are in an emergency situation, please call 911.

If the situation is not life-threatening, there are several ways to report abuse, neglect and/or exploitation:

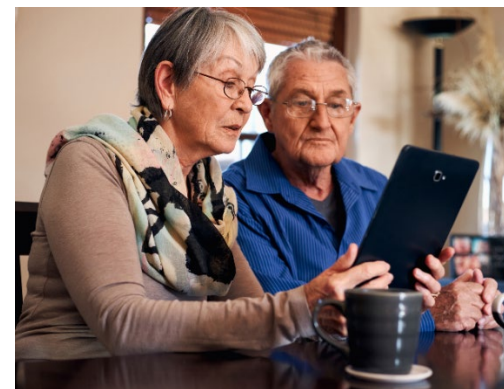
- Local Police or County Sheriff
- Adult Protective Services 1-844-277-9300, or see their website at [dphhs.mt.gov/SLTC/aps](http://dphhs.mt.gov/SLTC/aps)
- Contact MLSA to seek legal remedies

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## Montana Legal Services Association

### Elder Justice

### Abuse, Neglect, and Financial Exploitation



*Providing, protecting, and enhancing access to justice.*

