

# Elder Abuse: Understanding the Issue

MGS Webinar  
May 15, 2018

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## The Minnesota Elder Justice Center

- ▶ We Provide:
  - ▶ Free, Confidential Support and Advocacy for Victims
  - ▶ Professional Education & Training
  - ▶ Prevention & Outreach
  - ▶ Public Policy & Systems Change
  
- ▶ **Mission** - Mobilizing communities to prevent and alleviate abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of elders and vulnerable adults.

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## Elder Abuse: toward a definition...

- ▶ In general, elder abuse is any knowing, intentional, or negligent act by a caregiver or any other person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to an older adult.

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## Prevalence

- ▶ 1,000,000 – 2,000,000 adults in later life in U.S. are victims of abuse<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ 1 in 10 persons over the age 60 are victims of elder abuse<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ Victims of elder financial abuse in U.S. lose **at least** \$3 Billion each year<sup>3</sup>
- ▶ Elders who experienced abuse had a 300% higher risk of death when compared to those who had not been abused.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> National Center of Elder Abuse: 2005 Elder Abuse Prevalence and Incidence

<sup>2</sup> National Institute of Justice: Elder Abuse as a Criminal Problem

<sup>3</sup> Blacato, Robert: Violence Against Older Women and The Elder Justice Act; 3/04/12

<sup>4</sup> Dong, X, Simon, M., Mendes de Leon, C., Fulmer, T., Beck, T., Hebert, L. (2009). Elder self-neglect and abuse and mortality risk in a community-dwelling population. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 302(5), 517-526. doi:10.1001/jama.2009.1109

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## Types of Abuse

- ▶ Domestic Violence Late in Life
- ▶ Physical abuse
- ▶ Emotional abuse
- ▶ Sexual abuse
- ▶ Spiritual abuse
- ▶ Financial Exploitation
- ▶ Neglect
- ▶ Self Neglect

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## Where does Elder Abuse Occur?

- ▶ Facility settings
- ▶ Public settings
- ▶ Private residences
- ▶ Studies show that nearly 60% of reported maltreatment of older adults is perpetrated by a family member.

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## Our Approach

- ▶ Older Adults and Vulnerable Adults
  - ▶ MN Vulnerable Adult Act
- ▶ Intervention – Stopping Abuse that is Occurring
- ▶ Prevention – Strategies to Reduce and Eliminate Abuse

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## Lead Investigative Agencies in Minnesota

- ▶ APS
- ▶ MDH – OHFC
- ▶ DHS – Licensing
- ▶ Law Enforcement

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## Two Categories of Vulnerable Adults in MN

### ► Categorical

- Receives services licensed by DHS, MDH
- Facilities or services

### ► Functional

- Impaired, cannot meet basic needs
- Cannot protect themselves from maltreatment

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## Numbers of Reports in MN

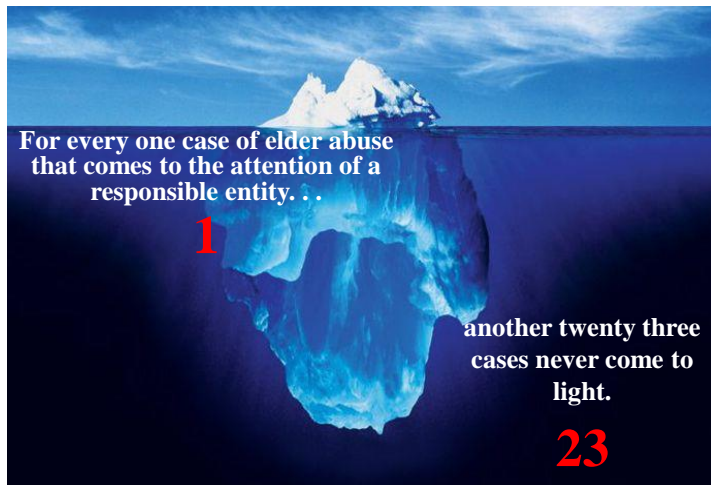
### ► In 2017 - 57,180 Total **Reports** of Maltreatment/Abuse\*

- APS – 27,969 reports
  - Investigated - 7,963 investigations
  - True – 742
  - False – 3,170
  - Inconclusive – 2,154
  - Unable to Investigate – 1,897
- OHFC – 22,961 reports
- DHS Licensing – 6,250 reports

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<https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/news-initiatives-reports-workgroups/adult-protection/>

## Elder Abuse: Under the Radar



Source: NYS Elder Abuse Prevalence Study; Weill Cornell Medical College, NYC Department for the Aging; Lifespan; (2011)  
Slide courtesy of Life Long Justice

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## Preventing Abuse & Maltreatment in Facilities

- ▶ Same Goal, Sometimes Different Approaches
- ▶ Training of Staff & Management
- ▶ Culture of Zero Tolerance of Abuse & Maltreatment
- ▶ Individualized Abuse Prevention Plans

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## Preventing Abuse & Maltreatment in Facilities

- ▶ Accountability
  - ▶ When something bad happens, it helps prevent future potential incident or maltreatment
- ▶ Protections for Consumers/Patient/Resident – similar to other industries and settings
- ▶ Regulations for Owners

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## Future Training and Conversations

- ▶ Complex problem, complex solutions – not a one size fits all
- ▶ Different approaches and solutions for elder abuse in the community when loved ones are perpetrators

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## Join Us to Learn More...

- ▶ World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Conference – June 13, 2018
  - ▶ Full day conference with CEUs, POST, CLEs
  - ▶ \$80 – Earle Brown Heritage Center
  - ▶ [www.elderjusticemn.org](http://www.elderjusticemn.org)

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## Contact Us

Minnesota Elder Justice Center  
651-440-9300  
[www.elderjusticemn.org](http://www.elderjusticemn.org)

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