

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Elder Abuse Intervention Team is to prevent and respond to elder abuse by working in partnership with the community, thereby enhancing the safety and well-being of older adults.

What is the Elder Abuse Intervention Team?

The Elder Abuse Intervention Team is a collaborative effort between the City of Edmonton Community Services, Edmonton Police Service and Catholic Social Services.

Contact:

Elder Abuse Intervention Team
8212-118 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5B 0S3

Intake / Consultation: (780) 477-2929

Fax: (780) 496-8674

Edmonton Seniors Safe Housing
Ph: (780) 702-1520

Seniors' Abuse HelpLine
Ph: (780) 454-8888

Additional copies available from the
Elder Abuse Intervention Team.
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 **Edmonton** COMMUNITY SERVICES



Elder Abuse

What is it?

What can be done about it?

If you are being abused talk to someone.

Keep talking until someone listens.

**Edmonton Community
Action Committee on
Elder Abuse**

Elder Abuse

Abuse is a strong word, but it can happen to anyone.

Abuse is wrong because:

- It violates your basic right to feel safe where you live
- It is controlling behaviour which makes you feel intimidated or afraid
- It can be illegal

What you should know about Abuse:

- often the abuser may be moody or angry
- it often increases in frequency and severity over time
- some people deny they are being abused because they think they are to blame for another person's angry behaviour
- if a close relative or friend abuses you, you do not need to feel ashamed. **IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT. IT IS CONTROLLING BEHAVIOUR.**

Controlling behaviour can be financial, emotional, physical, sexual and medication abuse as well as neglect.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is any unwanted sexual behaviour. It can include:

- sexual comments
- fondling or sexual assault
- being forced to commit degrading acts

If you are being sexually abused:

- ***talk to someone you can trust, a nurse, social worker, doctor***
- ***call the Sexual Assault Centre at 423-4121***
- ***call the Police at 423-4567 or in an emergency call 9-1-1***

Medication Abuse

Medication abuse is the misuse of medications or prescriptions on purpose or by accident, such as:

- not providing your medications when needed or prescribed
- providing dosages that cause you bodily harm or sedate you

If you suspect medication abuse:

- ***talk with your doctor, pharmacist, nurse, home care worker or someone you trust***
- ***call Police at 423-4567 or 9-1-1***

Sexual Abuse

Medication Abuse

Neglect

Neglect can be on purpose or a matter of not knowing or caring. It is a lack of action to meet your needs. Neglect can be:

- not giving you proper food or clean clothing
- failure to provide a safe, warm comfortable place to live
- not providing good health care and personal hygiene
- denial of social contacts inside or outside your home
- not providing aids for daily living, such as hearing aids, walkers, canes, wheelchairs, grab bars
- failure to prevent physical harm
- lack of needed supervision

If you are being neglected, or suspect someone is being neglected:

- *talk with someone you trust, a friend or family member, a public health nurse, social worker, home care worker, someone at your place of worship, a doctor*
- *call the Dispatch Line at 423-4567 or in an emergency, call 9-1-1*

Financial Abuse can be:

- not being allowed to make your own financial decisions
- not feeling that you have choices on things such as sharing your home or car or baby-sitting
- being charged excessive amounts of money for services
- being pressured to loan money to a relative or friend without a written agreement for repayment
- frequent requests for small amounts of money
- family members moving into your home without any prior agreement on shared costs
- taking money or cashing your cheque without your permission
- pressuring you to sign over your house or property

If you are not allowed to make financial decisions:

- *have cheques deposited directly to YOUR OWN bank account*
- *an Enduring Power of Attorney gives financial decisions to a person you trust. It can be revoked.*
- *in extreme cases, you can get a court order to protect yourself. You can get the Public Trustee to handle your finances, or consult your bank manager or lawyer.*

Financial Abuse

Emotional Abuse

Outside wounds can heal, inside wounds can fester.

Emotional Abuse can be:

- words or actions which put you down, are hurtful, make you feel unworthy, unimportant, unwanted, unloved or ignored
- not respecting your privacy, your belongings or pets
- not considering your wishes
- denying access to your grandchildren or friends or community help
- ignoring your health needs
- threatening to move you out of your home

If you are being emotionally abused:

- ***do not be threatened into silence***
- ***talk with someone you trust, a friend or family member, a public health nurse, social worker, home care worker, doctor, someone at your place of worship***
- ***write down what is happening to you. Keep a daily record***
- ***move to a different location if necessary***
- ***do something about the emotional abuse, don't accept it. OUTSIDE WOUNDS CAN HEAL, INSIDE WOUNDS CAN FESTER.***

Physical abuse can be any action which causes physical discomfort, pain or injury, such as:

- pushing, shoving
- hitting, slapping, poking
- pulling hair, biting, pinching
- tickling
- confining you to one place or room

If you are being physically abused:

- ***tell someone you trust***
- ***see a social worker or counsellor***
- ***leave the situation – go to a safe place such as a neighbour, friend, relative, a business or an abused women's shelter***
- ***see your doctor or medical clinic or hospital as soon as possible***
- ***you can report it to the Police by calling 9-1-1***
- ***you can get court orders to keep the abuser away from you, a "peace bond" through the Law Courts Building, or a "restraining order" through a lawyer***
- ***call the Distress Line at 482-HELP (4357)***

Physical Abuse