

Checklist: Spotting the signs of adult abuse



Abuse can happen to anyone, no matter their age. Each year, hundreds of thousands of adults over the age of 60 are abused or neglected. This checklist details the type of abuse that can occur and the signs to look for. If you notice any of the signs, please detail further comments and alert the relevant authorities immediately.

Physical Abuse ✓

Unexplained broken bones

Comments _____

Welts

Comments _____

Bruises

Comments _____

Cuts

Comments _____

Sores

Comments _____

Burns

Comments _____

Sexual Abuse

An unexplained sexually transmitted infection (STI)

Comments _____

Bruises on the thighs or external genitals

Comments _____

Bleeding, pain or irritation of the genitals

Comments _____

Inappropriate relationships between offender and the victim

Comments _____

Engaging in unusual or aggressive behaviour

Comments _____

Neglect

Lack of basic hygiene

Comments _____

Lack of appropriate clothing for the weather

Comments _____

Lack of adequate food

Comments _____

Missing medial aids, such as walkers, dentures, eyeglasses, medications, or hearing aids

Comments _____

Being left in bed for an extended period of time without supervision or care

Comments _____

The home or living area is cluttered or dirty, with appliances that are broken or unclean

Comments _____

The living area is lacking in the necessary amenities, such as a refrigerator, stove, plumbing, cooling, and heating, or electricity

Comments _____

Severe pressure ulcers or bed sores

Comments _____

Emotional Abuse

Withdrawn behaviour and fails to participate in activities

Comments _____

The caregiver often isolates the elderly person and won't let them be alone with family members

Comments _____

The caregiver can be verbally aggressive or demeaning to the elderly person

Comments _____

The caregiver may be controlling, but not want to actively care for the elderly person

Comments _____

Financial Abuse

Changes in living conditions

Comments _____

Lack of heating

Comments _____

Lack of clothing

Comments _____



Lack of food

Comments _____



Inability to pay bills

Comments _____



Unexplained money shortages

Comments _____



Unexplained withdrawals from an account

Comments _____



Unexplained loss of or misplaced financial documents

Comments _____



Recent addition of authorised signers on a signature card

Comments _____



Sudden or unexpected changes in a will or other financial documents

Comments _____



By understanding the signs to look out for, this can help prevent any harm or neglect that is a result of elder abuse.

For more information, please visit:

www.virtual-college.co.uk/courses/safeguarding-courses