

Elder Financial Exploitation

**Satellite Conference and Live Webcast
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2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Central Time**

**Produced by the Alabama Department of Public Health
Video Communications and Distance Learning Division**

Faculty

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Cornell Medical College Study – New York

- **For every elder abuse case reported to a mandated enforcement agency, the survey found 24 unreported cases occurred**
- **For each case of financial abuse of elders reported to authorities, 44 actually occurred and 57 cases of neglect occurred**

- <http://www.lifespan-roch.org/documents/UndertheRadar051211.pdf>
- Reference: Official Prevalence Elder Abuse Study, May 2011

Victim Impact

- **Bankrupt**
 - **Emotionally, physically, and spiritually**
- **Loss of independence**
- **Loss of assets**
- **Health deterioration**
- **Irreversible setback**

Victim Impact

- **Fact:**
 - **Mortality rate is 3 times greater for an elderly victim**

Quality of Health Impact

- **Increase in stress**
 - **High blood pressure**
 - **Anxiety, panic attacks**
 - **Chest pains**
 - **Worry, depression**

Quality of Health Impact

- Shame, guilt
- Eat less, use medications, alcohol
- Difficulty sleeping
- Withdrawal

Consequences

- Premature death
- Nursing home placement
- Increase in emergency room visits
- Hospitalization
- Hospice / home health
- Quality of life
- Guardianship

Alabama Council for the Prevention of Elder Abuse

- Mission
 - To strengthen partnerships to protect our elders
 - To improve and raise awareness for elders through education, advocacy, and outreach

Elder Justice and Advocacy Program

- Older American Act
 - Title VII program
- Coordinate the Council for the Prevention of Elder Abuse
- Raise community awareness and outreach
- Conduct local town hall meetings

Elder Justice and Advocacy Program

- Serve as an information and referral conduit
- Establish "speakers bureau to train professionals"
- Establish a community volunteer program
- Increase access to services

Council Goals and Objectives

- Protect the rights of elders in Alabama
- Promote and enhance coordination between agencies
- Identify service/communication gaps between agencies
- Strengthen the current reporting systems

Council Goals and Objectives

- Increase the knowledge and skills of professionals
- Develop a statewide advocacy, education, and outreach campaign

Elder Financial Security

- Nearly 1/3 of people aged 60+ are economically insecure (36%)
 - 1 of every 3
- 1/3 of senior households do not have ANY money left over each month
- 3/4 of seniors are financially vulnerable

Elder Financial Security

- 77% of people over 65 depend on their Social Security for all or most of their monthly income

Access to Services

- Prescription drugs
- Energy assistance
- Financial
- Legal
- Health care
- Social Security
- Housing

Access to Services

- In-home services
- Tax relief
- Transportation
- Educational assistance
- Employment
- Volunteer services
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP / Food Stamps)

How Can You Help?

- Educate elders BEFORE they are targeted
- Have an open and honest discussion
- Use “real life” examples
- Report any suspect activity
- Encourage elders to take time making decisions

How Can You Help?

- Encourage elders to ASK questions
- Direct your clients to contact the Alabama offices: Department of Human Resources, Attorney Generals Office, Department of Senior Services

Contact Information

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