



What is elder abuse?

This fact sheet has information on elder abuse and how Legal Aid WA can help.

What is elder abuse?

Everyone has the right to feel safe and be treated with respect. Unfortunately, some people do not feel safe and experience violence or abuse from someone else.

If an older person is experiencing violence or abuse, this is called elder abuse.

Elder abuse can include:

- » physical violence,
- » financial abuse,
- » emotional or psychological abuse,
- » social isolation,
- » sexual abuse, and
- » neglect.

Everyone has the right to feel safe and be treated with respect.

Who can elder abuse be from?

Elder abuse can be from a partner, another family member, neighbour, carer, someone who lives in your home or residential facility, or someone in a position of trust.

“ If an older person is experiencing violence or abuse, this is called elder abuse. ”

What is physical violence?

Physical violence is when someone hurts you physically.

For example: if someone slaps, pushes, hits or physically restrains you.

What is financial abuse?

Financial abuse is when someone uses your money without your permission.

Financial abuse includes:

- » someone selling your property without your permission,
- » someone forcing you to sign things you do not understand, and
- » someone taking control of your bank accounts.

If someone pressures you to give them money, this is also financial abuse.

This fact sheet contains information only. It is not legal advice. If you have a legal problem, you should speak to a lawyer. Legal Aid WA aims to provide accurate information but does not accept responsibility if it is not.

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What is emotional or psychological abuse?

Emotional or psychological abuse is when someone calls you names, swears or shouts at you, intimidates or humiliates you.

It includes threats to harm you or your pets.

What is social isolation?

Social isolation is when someone refuses to let you go out and do things.

It includes stopping you from having contact with your friends, grandchildren, family members, support services, culture, and religion.

What is neglect?

Neglect is when someone is meant to take care of you but doesn't give you proper food, clothing, healthcare, personal care or shelter.

Neglect can be intentional or unintentional.

Legal Aid WA has a specialist service for older Western Australians experiencing elder abuse.



How can Legal Aid WA help?

It can be difficult to talk about these things if they are happening to you.

However, there are many services that can support and help you.

Legal Aid WA has a specialist service for older Western Australians experiencing elder abuse, called Elder Rights WA

Elder Rights WA operates from the Perth office at Legal Aid WA.

Advice can be provided by phone, face to face and through community outreach.

Lawyers with specialist experience in the laws that affect older Western Australians provide the Elder Rights WA service.

There is no cost in receiving advice from a lawyer at Elder Rights WA.

You can access Elder Rights WA by calling Legal Aid WA's Infoline on 1300 650 579.

You can also email: ElderRightsWA@legalaid.wa.gov.au

To find out more about Elder Rights WA you can visit the Legal Aid WA website: www.legalaid.wa.gov.au.

The Legal Aid WA website also has information, videos and self-help guides on a range of legal topics.