

What is Elder Abuse?

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), elder abuse is defined as:

"A single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person."

Abuse can occur in any relationship, including healthy ones. If you have a concern regarding an older adult's safety or well-being, it is important to break the silence.

Lumacare is here to educate you about elder abuse, and intervene in suspected cases of abuse.

For suspected abuse, please contact:
stopelderabuse@lumacare.ca



Lumacare

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North York, ON M9M 2Z2



T: 647.508.LUMA (5862)
TF: 1.833.338.LUMA (5862)



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info@lumacare.ca

@Lumacare1974 #PeopleHelpingPeople



Charitable Registration #: 10703 3134 RR0001

luma care



LEAD DISRUPT GROW TRANSFORM

Elder Abuse Awareness



Funding Support Provided by:



lumacare.ca
647.508.LUMA (5862)



Half a million seniors in Canada potentially experience some form of elder abuse, representing up to 10% of the population aged 65 and over.



Types of Elder Abuse

Physical Abuse

Any act of violence or rough handling that may or may not result in physical injury but causes physical discomfort, upset or pain.

Sexual Abuse

Any sexual behaviour directed towards an older adult without that person's full knowledge and consent.

Psychological/Emotional Abuse

Any act which diminishes an older person's identity, dignity or self-worth (e.g., paternalism, which is treating an older adult as a child).

Neglect

The deliberate or thoughtless failure to meet the needs necessary for the older person's physical and mental well-being. It may be passive neglect due to lack of experience, information, resources or ability.

Financial Abuse

Any improper conduct done with or without the informed consent of the older adult that results in a monetary or personal gain for the abuser and/or monetary or personal loss for the older adult.

Signs of Elder Abuse

The following signs may indicate that an older adult is being victimized or neglected:

- Fear, anxiety, depression or passiveness in relation to a family member, friend or care provider
- Unexplained physical injuries
- Dehydration, poor nutrition/hygiene
- Improper use of medication
- Confusion about new legal documents, such as a new will
- Sudden drop in cash flow or financial holdings
- Reluctance to speak about the situation



Lumacare Care Navigators are available to provide education regarding triggers, symptoms and signs of elder abuse, and help create strategies to reduce toxic environments.

If abuse is a concern, Lumacare will get involved to help de-escalate the situation and put a safety plan in place. We are also available to provide resources and referrals as needed.

Resources

Are you a caregiver who is overwhelmed by the demands of caring for a loved one?

- Request help from friends and family
- Locate an adult day program
- Take care of your own health
- Adopt stress reduction practices
- Seek counselling
- Attend a support group
- Reach out to a Care Navigator at Lumacare
- Seek caregiver respite and support

www.lumacare.ca/abuse-prevention

Lumacare Seniors' Safety Line
1.866.299.1011

Toronto Seniors Healthline
416.217.2077

Advocacy Centre for the Elderly
416.598.2656

Victim Support Line
1.888.579.2888

Toronto Police Distress Services
416.408.4357

