

## What You Can Do....

*Neighbours, friends and family members can learn to do three things:*

**SEE it!** “It’s not right!”  
Recognize the warning signs of abuse.

**NAME it!** “That looks/sounds like abuse.” Talk to the older adult.

**CHECK it!** “Is it abuse? What can I do to help?”

**If you have immediate concerns about an older person’s safety, call the police – 911**

### **Seniors Abuse and Neglect Response Line:**

**Mobile Crisis Services  
Prince Albert & area  
24 hour crisis line:  
(306) 764-1011**

**Saskatoon & area  
24 hour crisis line:  
(306) 933-6200**

**Regina & area  
24 hour crisis line:  
(306) 757-0127**

For more information go to:  
[www.itsnotright.ca](http://www.itsnotright.ca)  
[www.seniors.gc.ca](http://www.seniors.gc.ca)  
[www.skseniorsmechanism.ca](http://www.skseniorsmechanism.ca)

# Seniors Neglect and Abuse

Although there are many definitions of abuse, it consists of any act, committed or omitted by another person that results in harm to or jeopardizes the well being or safety of an elderly person. It always constitutes an abuse of power and a violation of trust.

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## Who are the abusers of older adults?

Abuse of older adults often occurs within the family, by adult children or grandchildren. However, other relatives, friends, neighbours, paid and unpaid caregivers, landlords, financial advisors or any individual in a position of power, trust or authority can also be abusive. When a spouse or partner is abusive, it is called domestic violence.

Abused seniors may be from any social or economic level, any educational level, any ethnic group, or any age group.

## How can you recognize abuse?

Abuse happens in different ways, and usually becomes worse without help of some kind.

Older adults often experience more than one form of abuse. All abuse is serious and causes harm.

**Financial abuse:** if somebody tricks, threatens, or persuades older adults out of their money, property or possessions. Sometimes the abuser might influence or force the abused to change their will, sign a power of attorney or cash cheques without their knowledge.

**Physical abuse:** if somebody hits an older adult or handles the person roughly, even if there is no injury.

**Psychological abuse:** if somebody threatens, insults, intimidates or humiliates an older adult, treats them like a child, or does not allow them to see family and friends.

**Sexual abuse:** if somebody forces an older adult to engage in sexual activity. This may include verbal or suggestive behaviour, not respecting personal privacy, and sexual intercourse.

**Spiritual or religious abuse:** When someone limits or restricts the spiritual practices, customs or traditions of an older adult.

**Neglect:** is the failure to provide for the older person's basic needs, including food, shelter, and medical care or needs.