



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
CRIMINAL DIVISION  
ELDER ABUSE TEAM  
January 2025

## Possible Indicators of Elder Abuse

### Physical/Sexual Abuse

Possible Indicators:

- *Cuts, lacerations, punctures, bruises, welts, discolorations, grip marks*
- *Any unexplained injury that doesn't fit with the given explanation*
- *Any injury which has not been properly cared for*
- *Burns, possibly caused by cigarettes, caustics, acids or friction from ropes or chains*

### Neglect

Possible Indicators:

- *Dirt, fecal/urine smell or other health and safety hazards in adult's living environment*
- *Rashes, sores, lice on the adult*
- *Soiled clothing or bed linens*

### Verbal Abuse

Possible Indicators:

- *Humiliating, insulting, or threatening language being used by caregiver*
- *Being extremely withdrawn and non-responsive or non-communicative*
- *Subtle signs of intimidation – deferring questions to caregiver/abuser*

### Abandonment, Seclusion or Restraint

Possible Indicators:

- *An adult's report of not being allowed to see or speak with people who they would reasonably see or speak with*
- *Not allowed to use the telephone or receive/send mail*
- *A person's own report of being abandoned*

### When, Where and What to Report

- *Report Immediately to DHS or local law enforcement agency*
- *Give as much information as possible /explain allegation of abuse*

**DHS Reporting Hotline: 1-855-503-SAFE(7233)**

2250 McGilchrist St. SE Suite 100, Salem, OR 97302  
Telephone: (503) 378-6347 Fax: (503) 373-1936 [www.doj.state.or.us](http://www.doj.state.or.us)