

Advocate - "a defender, one who pleads the cause of another".

Consider some Elder Abuse statistics:

- Statewide, 3,853 cases of suspected abuse and neglect were reported in 2003, an increase of 3.6% over 2002
- Self-neglect was the most-frequently reported category, comprising 49%. Material abuse was second, with 20%, and neglect by others was third, with 13%. Of the 16 fatalities reported in 2003, 11 involved self-neglect.
- Female victims, at 64%, outnumbered male victims, at 36%.
- The largest reported age group of victims was in the 80-89 category, at 38%. The second largest category was 70-79, at 33%.
- The majority of alleged abusers were relatives of the victim: sons (24%), daughters (21%), spouses (14%) and other relatives (15%).

Protect yourself **call CAFY** for support, referral assistance, and information.

We exists to educate, empower & embrace victims of crime.

State Elder Abuse Hotlines
Eldercare Locator: 1 (800) 677-1116
District of Columbia: Domestic 202-541-3950 or Institutional 202-434-2140
Maryland: Domestic 800-917-7383 or 800-677-1115; Institutional 800-402-8220

Crime - It's Real, It's Wrong
Speak Out for Yourself
Or
Someone Else.

To become a member or make a donation contact:

Community Advocates for Family & Youth
P. O. Box 4419
Capitol Heights, MD 20791
admin@communityadvocates.info

COMMUNITY ADVOCATES
FOR
FAMILY & YOUTH
SUPPORT FOR
OUR SEASONED
CITIZENS



CAFY
EDUCATE, EMPOWER & EMBRACE

301-390-4092

www.communityadvocates.info

Community Advocates for Family and Youth (CAFY) is dedicated to assisting victims of crime regain control of their lives.

Our *Victim Advocates* continually receive training that enhances their skills and knowledge, enabling them to be highly effective in helping victims with a variety of needs.

FAQ'S ABOUT ELDER ABUSE

- **What is elder abuse?**
 - Any intentional act by a caregiver or any other person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable/elder adult. Elder Abuse is generally divided into the following categories: Physical, Emotional, Sexual, Exploitative, Neglect and/or Abandonment.
- **What makes an older adult vulnerable to abuse?**
 - Social isolation and mental impairment, living with someone or a history of domestic violence.
- **Who are the abusers of older people?**
 - Family members are more often the abusers than any other group.

- **Are there criminal penalties for abusers?**
 - Most states have several laws that address criminal penalties for various types of elder abuse. Laws vary state to state.
- **Who do I call if I suspect elder abuse?**
 - Report mistreatment.
 - Call 9-1-1

DO'S AND DON'TS TO STAY SAFE

At home

- ✓ Make sure that your locks, doors, and windows are strong and cannot be easily broken. A good alarm system can help.
- ✓ Mark valuable property
- ✓ Don't open your door before looking to see who's there. Ask any stranger to show proof of who they claim to be. Remember, you don't have to open the door if you feel uneasy.
- ✓ Don't keep large amounts of money in the house.
- ✓ Get to know your neighbors—join a Neighborhood Watch Program.

Protect yourself

Street smart

- ✓ Stay alert. Walk with a friend.
- ✓ Don't open your door or roll-down your window for strangers. Park in well-lit areas.
- ✓ Do have direct deposit.
- ✓ Don't carry a lot of cash.
- ✓ Do not resist a robber—hand over your cash right away.

Fight Fraud

- ✓ Don't be afraid to hang up on telephone salespeople.
- ✓ Don't give any personal information over the phone.
- ✓ Don't take money from your bank account if a stranger tells you to.
- ✓ Do be on guard about hiring people that come door-to-door looking for home repair work.

Avoid Identity Theft

How can someone steal your identity?

- ✓ If they use your name, Social Security number, or credit card without your go-ahead—that's called identity theft and it's a serious crime.

CALL 301-390-4092