

Who should you call for assistance?

Seniors' Secretariat

For information about programs and services relating to elder abuse, call the Secretariat toll-free at **1-800-670-0065**.

Police

Abuse may be a crime and fall under the Criminal Code. If the situation is an emergency or if it could be dangerous, call **911**.

Adult Protection

If you know of a senior in need of protection, call Adult Protection Services at the Department of Health at **1-800-225-7225**. Adult protection workers can intervene and offer services to help those in need of protection to live safely.

Abuse can happen to anyone ... regardless of age, gender, living arrangements, health, sexual orientation, financial status, education, or culture.



For general information about elder abuse programs and services, contact:

Seniors' Secretariat

1740 Granville Street, 4th Floor
PO Box 2065, Halifax, NS B3J 2Z1

Phone: (902) 424-0065

Toll-free: 1-800-670-0065

E-mail: scs@gov.ns.ca

The Secretariat's website has a wide range of information on the issue of elder abuse:

www.gov.ns.ca/scs



Elder Abuse

We can't always see it ... but we know it's there.




**Seniors'
Secretariat**

Giving Nova Scotia Seniors a Voice

It's time to shed some light on elder abuse.



What is elder abuse?

Elder abuse is any action or inaction that threatens the health or well-being of an older adult.

It includes:

- physical abuse
- sexual abuse
- emotional abuse
- financial abuse
- violation of rights
- neglect

Who might abuse a senior?

Most often, it is someone the senior knows—a spouse, relative friend, care provider ...

What are some factors that may contribute to elder abuse?

- alcohol or drugs
- lack of money
- history of family violence
- isolation
- inadequate support for caregivers
- mental health issues

What are the types of elder abuse?

Physical Abuse—includes slapping, hitting, inappropriate medication and physical restraint.

Sexual Abuse—includes unwanted sexual touching or being coerced into sexual acts.

Emotional Abuse—includes insulting, frightening, threatening, ignoring or isolating a senior.

Financial Abuse—includes fraud, theft, misusing money or property, or putting pressure on seniors to gain access to their funds or property.

Violation of Rights—includes withholding information, interfering with mail, or confining a senior to an institution or hospital.

Neglect—includes leaving seniors without food, adequate shelter, assistance or personal care.

Elder abuse can be prevented.

Shine the light on elder abuse in Nova Scotia!



How can you prevent elder abuse?

If you are a senior ...

- stay active within your community
- keep in regular contact with friends and family
- know your rights
- be proud of your age

If you know a senior ...

- give him or her the opportunity to talk about abuse
- discourage age discrimination or ageism; treat seniors with respect
- encourage her or him to seek support and assistance when required
- educate yourself about elder abuse

