

Seniors and Elders Deserve Respect

Don't put up with abuse



Expect respect ... don't put up with abuse

You have a new choice

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What is “Elder abuse”?

Elders and seniors can be abused in ways that don't give them bruises or broken bones. Sometimes, people in their own families hurt them by demanding money or treating them badly. Older people sometimes don't ask for help because they are loyal to their family and friends. They may feel ashamed and think it is their own fault, or be afraid to talk about what is happening.

Elders and seniors deserve respect. They have the right to be safe from harm and threats.

1-866-223-7775

or call your local RCMP

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There are many kinds of Elder and senior abuse

Abuse that leaves bruises may be easy to see; but there are many other types of family violence. These could include:

- **Physical abuse:** injuring you or family members;
- **Psychological abuse:** threatening you or members of your family, destroying your belongings or making you afraid for your safety;
- **Emotional abuse:** being so mean to you that you believe you aren't good enough any more;
- **Financial abuse:** forcing you or a family member to give up money or things;
- **Abusive control:** not letting you or an adult family member come and go freely; and
- **Sexual abuse:** forcing you to do something sexual you don't want to do.

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What can you do about Elder abuse?

If you think you or someone you love is being abused, talk to someone you trust. It may be easier to talk privately to someone outside your own family. Your social worker or counsellor can help you. If you feel more comfortable with your priest, minister, doctor or nurse, they can help, too.

You will probably need help to stop the abuse. You can talk privately by calling 1-866-223-7775. The call is free and they can help you apply for an Emergency Protection Order.

If you want to talk privately to someone in your own language, you can call 1-888-255-1010 and ask to speak to someone in the language you want. Stay on the line – a translator is usually available in less than five minutes.

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Emergency protection is available

What can an Emergency Protection Order do?

Every case is different, but an Emergency Protection Order can last for up to 90 days and may:

- Order the abusive person to stay away from you;
- Allow you to stay in your home without the abusive person being there; and
- Require the RCMP to take away any weapons the abusive person may have.

An Emergency Protection Order is granted by a designated Justice of the Peace who has been specially trained for this work.

If the police know the abusive person is ignoring the order, they can help.

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How do you apply for an Emergency Protection Order?

There are four steps in applying for an Emergency Protection Order. It usually takes a few hours.

1. Call 1-866-223-7775 or your local RCMP and tell them that you want to apply for an Emergency Protection Order (EPO).
2. You will need to tell them what is happening at your home and why you need help right away.
3. The person you call will talk to a specially trained Justice of the Peace, who will decide if you need emergency protection. This Justice of the Peace might want to talk to you, too.
4. If the Justice of the Peace decides that you need emergency protection, he or she will grant the order. The RCMP will give you and the abusive person a copy of the Emergency Protection Order and will help to make sure that you are safe. They will also help you if the other person ignores the order.

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How long does an Emergency Protection Order last?

An Emergency Protection Order can last up to 90 days. After the order is granted, a judge will review it to make sure it was fair.

If the judge wants more information, he or she may ask you and the person who was abusing you to come to a hearing. Each of you will have a chance to tell your side of the story. You won't need a lawyer for this hearing unless you want to have one. If you don't want to hire a lawyer, you might want to ask a friend to come with you in case you get nervous.

If you need protection for more than 90 days, you can hire a lawyer and apply to the court for a Protection Order. Your lawyer can help you. A Protection Order will protect you from the other person, and can order the other person to take counselling.

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How do I get information about an Emergency Protection Order?

Information about Emergency Protection Orders is available in your community. You can ask for information from your local health and social services staff and RCMP. Look for the “Let’s Talk” desk signs in your community. These signs mean that you can talk to people who work there about getting help.

You can call the numbers below and tell them you need to talk privately about Elder abuse:

- 1-866-223-7775 (Alison McAteer House);
- Your local RCMP;
- Or call your local social worker or nurse for information.

You can also talk privately in your own language by calling Tele-care NWT at 1-888-255-1010.

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