

ONTARIO'S STRATEGY TO COMBAT ELDER ABUSE

The Ontario Seniors' Secretariat, Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration and the Ontario Victim Services Secretariat, Ministry of the Attorney General are partnering with the Ontario Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (ONPEA) to implement the Ontario government's five-year, \$4.3 million Strategy to Combat Elder Abuse.

The strategy, the first of its kind in Canada, focuses on three key priorities:

- Coordination of community services
- Training for front-line staff
- Public education to raise awareness

ONPEA's regional consultants have been designated across the province as key channels to justice and community service providers, and to existing and new coordinating committees addressing elder abuse throughout Ontario.

**Provincial & GTA
Multicultural Coordinator
416-978-0545**

Regional Consultants:

North West	807-343-8563
North East	705-525-0077
West	519-971-9217
Central West	905-276-3282
Central East	705-745-4100
East	613-596-5626 ext. 234

Ontario Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse

416-978-1716
onpea.info@utoronto.ca
www.onpea.org

VICTIM SUPPORT LINE

The Victim Support Line is a province-wide, toll-free information line funded by the Ontario Victim Services Secretariat, providing a range of services in English and French to victims of crime. Trained information counselors are available to provide information and referral services on elder abuse.

Victim Support Line

1-888-579-2888 toll free or
416-314-2447 Toronto area referral
For general ministry information, visit
**[www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/
seniors/index.html](http://www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/seniors/index.html)**
or call Seniors' InfoLine
Toll-free: 1-888-910-1999
TTY: 1-800-387-5559

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ELDER ABUSE



WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?

Elder abuse or the abuse of older adults, is often defined as any act or omission that harms a senior or jeopardizes his or her health or welfare.

The World Health Organization defines abuse of older adults as “a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring in any relationship where there is an expectation of trust that causes harm or distress to an older person”.

Elder abuse can take the form of:

- Neglect
- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Psychological abuse
- Financial abuse

Elder abuse can take place in the home, in a residential setting or in the community. Abusers can be family members, friends, staff, or individuals in positions of trust or authority.

What are the Signs and Symptoms of Elder Abuse?

Victims of elder abuse may show signs of:

- Depression, fear, anxiety, passivity
- Unexplained physical injury
- Lack of food, clothing and other necessities
- Changes in hygiene and nutrition
- Failure to meet financial obligations
- Unusual banking withdrawals

If you or someone you know has been abused or is experiencing abuse, you are not alone; help is available.

Contact your local police or community service agencies in your area. You can also get information on elder abuse by calling The Ministry of the Attorney General’s Victim Support Line. It’s toll free, 1-888-579-2888 across Ontario, or in the Toronto area 416-314-2447.

A list of provincial elder abuse resources is available in the “*What You Need to Know About Elder Abuse: Information Sheet*” available at www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/seniors/index.html or call toll-free 1-888-910-1999 (in Ontario).