

## THE CONSTANT CORNER

### ELDER ABUSE

Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation exist more than we know. Only 1 out of every 14 cases is reported to law enforcement authorities, and that doesn't even include the financial exploitation of our older population.

Let's begin with a brief description of the 6 types of elder abuse that exist.

By definition, Elder abuse is the infliction of physical, emotional, or psychological harm on an older adult, financial exploitation by a caregiver, or intentional or unintentional neglect of an older adult. The six types of elder abuse are as follows: 1. Physical abuse, 2. Sexual Abuse, 3. Emotional Abuse, 4. Neglect, 5. Self-Neglect, and 6. Financial Exploitation.

Elder abuse and financial exploitation are CRIMES that can be prosecuted in a court of law. Law enforcements' investigative approaches include working with the Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services who conduct their own investigations. Both agencies can obtain bank records, medical records, Medicaid and Medicare records, and work with each fraud prevention unit.

New Hampshire Laws that are applicable to crimes against the elderly include False Imprisonment, Criminal Restraint, Theft by Unauthorized Taking or Transfer, Theft by Deception, Forgery, Fraudulent Handling of Recordable Writings, Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card, Identity Theft, Criminal Neglect of the Elderly, Financial Exploitation of the Elderly, and several other crimes as described in our Criminal Statutes.

Civil actions may also be brought against a perpetrator charged with elder abuse or financial exploitation by any individual or private attorney to provide a remedy for the victims.

Bottom Line: Professionals who work for various agencies, using a multidisciplinary approach, who collaborate together to serve our older population, can ensure the safety of our senior citizens. It begins by reporting these crimes. If you suspect that someone is being exploited or abused, please file a report with your local law enforcement agency.

From the desk of Jane Constant

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