



LET'S GET TO KNOW ELDERLY ABUSE & NEGLECT

ASSOCIATION OF ELDERLY RIGHTS AND MENTAL HEALTH



+90 548 840 2353, +90 533 857 4392

www.yaslihaklariveruhsagligi.org info@yaslihaklariveruhsagligi.org

[yaslihaklariveruhsagligidernegi](https://www.facebook.com/yaslihaklariveruhsagligidernegi) [yaslihaklariveruhsagligi](https://www.instagram.com/yaslihaklariveruhsagligi)



The Elderly Rights Movement Project is funded by the European Union under the Cypriot Civil Society in Action VII Grant Scheme and implemented by the Association of Elderly Rights and Mental Health. This brochure was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of Association of Elderly Rights & Mental Health and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

ELDERLY NEGLECT AND ABUSE

All behaviour that threatens the health or well-being of the elderly and harm the elderly are defined as elder neglect and abuse. Neglect and abuse can take place at home, in a public place, hospital or nursing home. Those who harm the elderly are often someone close and familiar. Trusted people, such as caregivers, relatives or neighbours, can neglect and abuse the elderly.

Physical Abuse

Any behaviour that involves intentionally harming the body. Some examples of physical abuse:

- Hitting, pushing or slapping,
- Denying food or water,
- Not helping person use the bathroom,
- Misuse of medicines,
- Intentionally keeping a walking aid out of reach.

Organisational Abuse

It is a type of abuse that occurs due to inadequate structures, policies and practices. It often occurs in nursing homes, hospitals, and home care services. Institutional abuse often leads to elder neglect. Some examples:

- Lack of nutrition and hygiene, unsuitable room temperature and physical conditions, failure to meet care and health needs.

Sexual Abuse

Forcing an individual to engage in any sexual activity without their consent. Examples of sexual abuse:

- Sexual assault, harassment (physical and online),
- Sexual pressure, rape,
- Forced to watch pornographic content.

Psychological Abuse

All behaviours that cause hurt or stress to the elderly person, verbally or non-verbally. Some examples:

- Intimidating, threatening to abandon the elderly person,
- Stopping the elderly from seeing people,
- Forced separation from environment,
- Humiliating, blaming,
- Shaming, intimidating or harassing,
- Name-calling
- Unreasonably withdrawing services given to elderly person,
- Forms of harassment, slurs or unfair treatment because of age.

Financial Abuse

Includes controlling the elder's ability to acquire, use and maintain their financial resources. Some examples:

- Theft of money and other items,
- Inappropriate use of money by someone given responsibility to look after it,
- Forcing an elderly person to spend their money in a way they are not happy with,
- Fraud,
- Restricting access to money, employment or possessions,
- Pressurising and coercing about will, lasting power of attorney, property and inheritance,
- Internet/phone scams and doorstep crime.

Neglect

Can be defined as depriving the older person of their basic needs such as food, clothing and heating. Just as the elderly can be neglected by others, self-neglect of the elderly is also common. Some examples:

- Leaving the elderly without help to wash or change dirty or wet clothes,
- Not getting them to a doctor when they need one, or not being sure they have the right medicines,
- Wilfully ignoring their medical or physical care needs,
- Failing to provide them with access to appropriate health or social care,
- Limiting access to food, drink, medication or heating, restricting access to personal care and medical support.

In what situations should you suspect neglect and abuse?

- Becoming quiet and withdrawn,
- Being aggressive or angry for no obvious reason,
- Looking unkempt, dirty or thinner than usual,
- Sudden changes in their emotions, such as appearing helpless, depressed or tearful,
- Physical signs – such as bruises, wounds, fractures or other untreated injuries,
- The same injuries happening more than once,
- Not wanting to be left by themselves or alone with particular people,
- Being unusually lighthearted and insisting there's nothing wrong,
- Also, if the room temperature is inappropriate or if the house is unusually dirty or untidy, you should suspect neglect and abuse.

What should be done if an older person is exposed to neglect or abuse?

- If an elderly person has told you about their situation, you might want to talk to other people who know them to find out if they have similar concerns,
- You can pass on your concerns to their doctor and municipal health care visitor,
- If you believe a crime is being, or has been, committed call the police, or ask someone you trust to do so on your behalf,
- If the person is in danger or needs medical attention, emergency services 112 if immediate assistance is required,
- You can share your complaints and problems with the Association of Elderly Rights and Mental Health.

