

## Overview

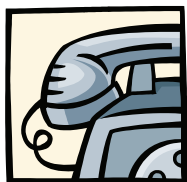
Statistics reveal a frightening picture of elderly abuse in the United



States: According to the National Area Agency on Aging, **1 of every 20 elderly people will be the victim of abuse**—physical abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Only 5% of all elderly abuse cases are reported to authorities.

The problem may get worse as the number of elderly Americans increases: By 2020, the number of people over the age of 65 will reach approximately 52 million in the U.S.

**We must recognize the seriousness of this problem and help our seniors by reporting abuse.**



This brochure is for general education only. It is not intended to be used to solve individual problems.

## Types of Elder Abuse

- **Physical Abuse** is the assault or unreasonable confinement of an elderly person
- **Neglect** is the lack of sufficient and appropriate care by caregivers or themselves
- **Exploitation** is the misuse of an elderly person's property or financial resources.



## Who Abuses?

Studies indicate that family members most often perpetrate physical abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older persons. Abuse occurs in all classes of society and takes place in cities, small towns, suburbs, and rural areas.

## Strategies



**Increase public and professional awareness of the occurrence of physical abuse, neglect, and exploitation of the elderly.**

**Recognize that elderly abuse, which was once thought to be a “nursing home problem,” has emerged into family care settings.**

**Provide victims of elderly abuse with the ability to recognize the problem and the motivation and support to take steps to remedy the situation.**

**Encourage the public to report elderly abuse.**

## About Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida (CLSMF)

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida provides free legal assistance in civil matters. CLSMF provides community education seminars and detailed informational brochures on the major areas of law we practice.

CLSMF's Senior Citizens Law Unit provides free advocacy services to residents of Flagler, Putnam, and Volusia Counties who are 60 years of age or older. Senior Citizens Law Unit advocacy services are free regardless of income.



Leadership and Funding for Justice in Florida



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## Where To Go For Help

If you have reason to believe that an aged person or an adult with a disability is being or has been abused, neglected, or exploited, you should **immediately report such knowledge or suspicion to the Florida Abuse Hotline: 1-800-96-ABUSE**. The Central Abuse Registry of the State of Florida will conduct an investigation within 24 hours of the report.

If you're a senior citizen in need of help, you may contact the following offices for information, referrals and/or legal assistance

### CLSMF in Volusia County

128 Orange Ave, Daytona Beach, FL 32114

386-255-6573 x 2414

(888) 379-4729 x2414

### CLSMF in Flagler County

(386) 437-8485 x2414

### CLSMF in Putnam County

(386) 328-8361 x2414

### Council on Aging

160 N. Beach St.

Daytona Beach, FL 32115

386-329-0800

800-426-9975

### Putnam County Sheriff

386-253-4700

### State Attorney's Office

Elderly Abuse Division

250 N. Beach Street

Daytona Beach, FL 32114

386-239-7720



## Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida



We must all take responsibility for this growing problem

(386) 255-6573 x 2414

(888) 379-4729 x 2414

[www.clsmf.org](http://www.clsmf.org)

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