Our mothers, fathers, friends, and relatives are growing older each day and becoming increasingly at risk for elder abuse. Though some abuse is blatant and obvious, other forms are more subtle or secretive. Hopefully this information will help you define, recognize, report and stop the tragedy of elder abuse.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
THE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TULARE
VICTIM/WITNESS ASSISTANCE DIVISION
(559) 636-5471 VISALIA
(559) 782-9617 PORTERVILLE
(559) 735-1470 JUVENILE

WHERE TO MAKE A REPORT
IN TULARE COUNTY
TULARE COUNTY SHERIFF 733-6211
VISALIA CITY POLICE 734-8116
TULARE CITY POLICE 686-3454
PORTERVILLE CITY POLICE 782-7400
DINUBA CITY POLICE 591-5913
EXETER CITY POLICE 592-3103
FARMERSVILLE CITY POLICE 747-0321
LINDSAY CITY POLICE 562-2571
WOODLAKE CITY POLICE 564-3325

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES
3500 W. Mineral King Ave., Suite C
Visalia, CA 93291
(559) 623-0651 or 877-657-3092

FOR LONG-TERM CARE
To report physical or financial abuse and neglect in long-term care facility, residential care or skilled nursing facility call:
559-582-3211 EXT 4856
(KINGS/TULARE COUNTY OMBUDSMAN)

Defining, Recognizing and Reporting
Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse

STOP THE TRAGEDY

Working together, raising awareness for the prevention of Elder Abuse

February 2015
TYPES OF ABUSE

PHYSICAL ABUSE
Every year an estimated 2.1 million older Americans are victims of elder abuse, neglect or exploitation. Additionally, experts believe that for every case of elder abuse or neglect reported, as many as five cases go unreported. (Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging)

Physical Abuse is defined as inflicting or threatening to inflict physical pain or injury on a person 65 years or any disabled persons 18 years or older. Other examples of abuse can include: sexual abuse, false imprisonment, abduction, unreasonable physical restraints, inappropriate use of medications, and deprivation of food and water.

Look for:
• Injuries inconsistent with victim’s history
• Malnutrition/dehydration
• Social/physical isolation

FINANCIAL ABUSE
Victims of financial elder abuse lose an estimated $2.9 billion nationwide every year (MetLife Mature Market Institute).

Financial Abuse is the illegal taking or misuse of an elder’s funds, property or assets such as checks and debit/credit cards, jewelry, cash, vehicle, or real estate.

Look for:
• Unusual bank account activity
• Addition of names on bank accounts
• Sudden changes in property titles, wills
• Missing personal property
• Unpaid bills
• Loans or gifts to abuser
• Deliberate isolation by caregiver

NEGLECT/ABANDONMENT
Neglect is the refusal or failure to provide basic care such as food, shelter, health care or protection for an Elder or Disabled Adult by someone who is responsible for their care. Neglect and abandonment can occur in the home, in nursing homes, in hospitals and in public places like shopping malls or restaurants.

Where it occurs:
• Hospitals
• Nursing homes
• Shopping malls
• In the home

When it occurs at the home, look for:
• Sudden unexpected departure of a caregiver
• No activity in or about the victim’s home
• Telephone calls going unanswered
• Mail or newspapers piling up
• Dirty unkempt appearance
• Filthy living conditions

WHO ARE THE ABUSERS?
• The vast majority are family members or direct care providers
• People with close friendships with victim
• Someone who depends on the victim for all or part of their support
• Someone who may suffer from mental/emotional problems
• Someone who may have drug/alcohol/gambling addictions
• Someone who may have financial difficulties

Statistics uncover a frightening picture of elder abuse in California. One of every 20 elderly people will be a victim of neglect or physical, psychological or financial abuse this year. As the elder population multiplies, so will the incidence of elder abuse...if we don’t take action.