

Reporting Elder & Dependent Adult Abuse

California enforces mandatory reporting laws. A mandated reporter is any person who has assumed full or intermittent responsibility for care or custody of an elder or dependent adult. This includes:

- Care Custodians
- Adult Protective Services Workers
- Health Practitioners
- Law Enforcement Officers
- Clergy
- Banks and Financial Institutions

Any person who has knowledge of, or observes, a person who he or she reasonably suspects has been a victim of abuse must report the suspected abuse to any one of the following agencies:

- Police or Sheriff's Department
- Adult Protective Services Agency
- Long-Term Care Ombudsman

All reports are confidential and the privacy of the reporting parties will be maintained.

Christopher G. Money
Victim Witness Assistance Center
Office of the District Attorney
Courthouse Annex, RM 384
1035 Palm St.
San Luis Obispo, California 93408
(805) 781-5821
Toll Free: (866) 781-5821
Fax: (805) 781-5828
victimwitness@co.slo.ca.us
www.slocounty.ca.gov/da

Local Resources

Adult Protective Services (APS).....(805) 781-1790

Alzheimer's Association.....(805) 547-3830

District Attorney Economic Crime Unit/Small Claims.....(805) 781-5856

Law Enforcement, Fire & Emergency Services.911

Long-Term Care Ombudsman.....(805) 785-0132

RISE (Sexual Assault/ Abuse & Intimate Partner Violence Intervention Programs).....(855) 886-7473

Senior Connection.....(805) 928-2552

Senior Legal Services.....(805) 543-5140

SLO County Behavioral Health.....(805) 781-4700

SLO Hotline.....(800) 783-0607

Transitions Mental Health Association.....(805) 540-6500

Wilshire Community Services.....(805) 547-7025

Stand Strong (Intimate Partner Violence Intervention Programs).....(805) 781-6400

Christopher G. Money Victim Witness Assistance Center



Elder Abuse And Dependent Adult Abuse

Dan Dow
District Attorney
San Luis Obispo County

Victim Witness Elder & Dependent Adult Abuse Advocacy and Outreach Project

The San Luis Obispo County District Attorney's Office has enhanced its Victim Witness Assistance Program to include specialized services for elders and dependent adults in San Luis Obispo County. The Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Advocacy and Outreach Project coordinates with Adult Protective Services, the Long Term Care Ombudsman Office, local law enforcement agencies and other resources to help victims and families cope with the effects of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

The Victim Witness Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Advocacy and Outreach Project provides services to elder and dependent adults as well as ongoing training programs for local law enforcement, first responders, and community providers. The purpose of the project is to ensure the safety of our community's elder and dependent adults and to heighten the community's awareness of this form of crime. Our outreach project now includes assisting crime victims with disabilities. Please contact our office for more information.



What Is Elder Abuse & Dependent Adult Abuse?

An elder adult is any person age 65 and older. A dependent adult is any person between the ages of 18 and 64 who has physical or mental limitations. Abuse of the elderly or of dependent adults is characterized by, but not limited to, physical abuse, emotional abuse, financial abuse, and/or neglect.

Examples of Abuse Include:

Physical Abuse

The infliction of physical pain or bodily harm, characterized by bruises, injuries, deprivation of food, unauthorized physical and/or chemical restraint.

Psychological/Emotional Abuse

The infliction of mental anguish such as threatening, humiliating, intimidating, and/or isolating.

Caregiver Neglect

Failure to fulfill a caregiver obligation, whether intentional or unintentional, needed to maintain an elderly or dependent adults's well being.

Self-Neglect

An older person's failure to provide him or herself with the necessities of life.

Financial Exploitation

The unauthorized conversion or use of an elder person's money, property, or other resources would characterize financial exploitation.

Watch for These Signs

Conditions in the Home

- Utilities are turned off.
- Pungent odors are noticed in the home.
- There is no food.
- There are broken windows, garbage on the floor, and or excess repairs are needed around the house.
- Insect and vermin infestation is evident.

Elder/Dependent Adult

- Person is noticeably unkempt or odorous.
- Person has bruises or scratches.
- The person is passive, confused, or afraid.
- The person tells you there is abuse.

Adult Caregiver

- Caregiver is reluctant to let you into the home or care facility.
- Caregiver does not allow the individual to speak or uses offensive or abrasive language with the person.

Victim Witness Services

- T Crisis and Emergency Services
- T Referral Counseling
- T Case Status Information
- T Criminal Justice System Orientation
- T Court Escort/Support
- T Restitution/Compensation Claims
- T Property Return
- T Crime Prevention Information
- T Transportation Assistance
- T Marsy's Rights Information