

More Information About Elder Abuse & Dependent Adult Abuse

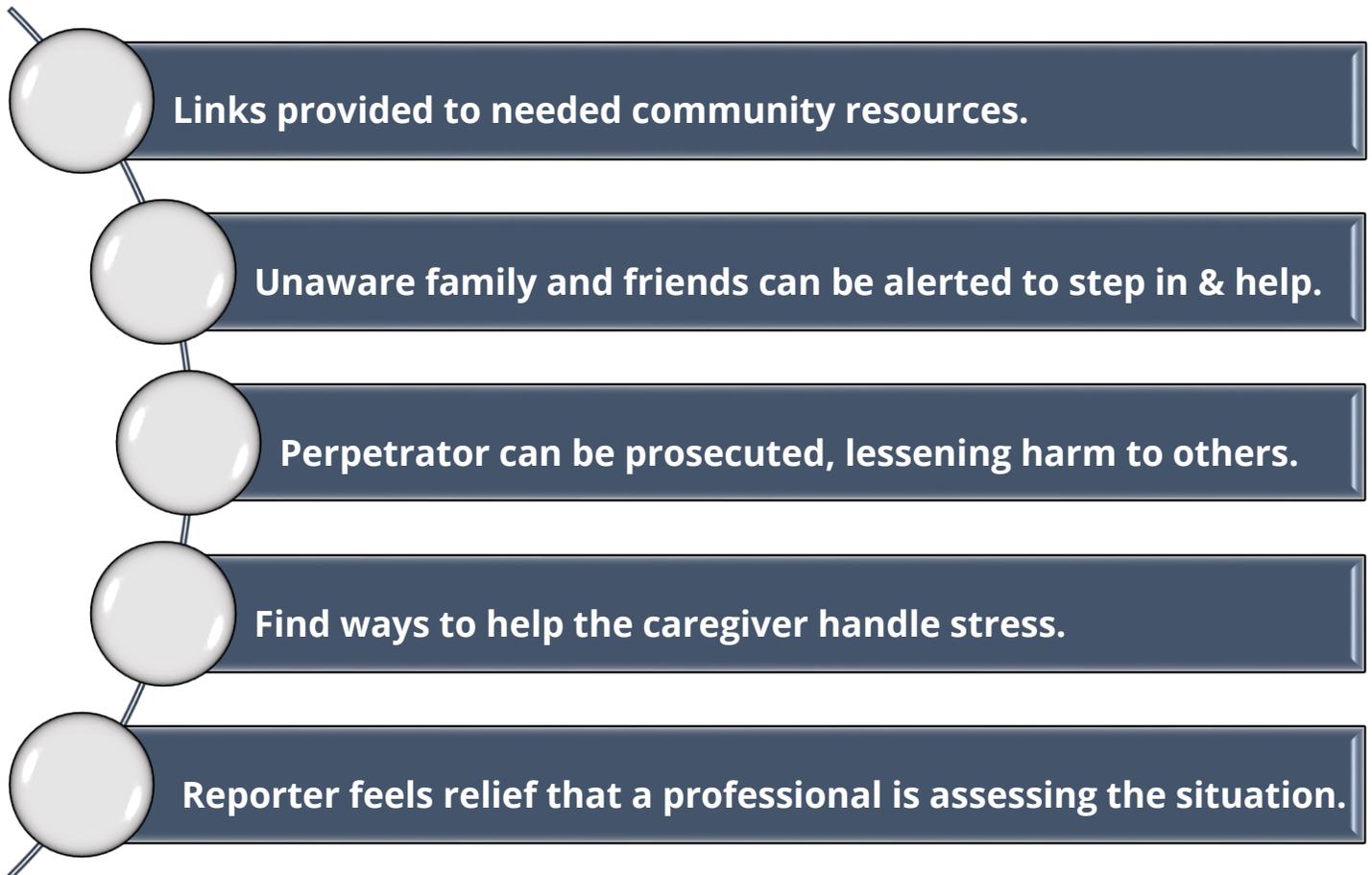
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Benefits to Reporting Abuse:



Early Warning Signs:

The following items are possible warning signs that abuse might be occurring to an elder or disabled adult. If you observe some or all of these occurring with an elder or disabled adult you know, consider alerting Adult Protective Services.

Injuries inconsistent with the explanation for its cause.

Person has recently become confused or disoriented.

The caregiver shows anger, indifference, aggressive behavior toward the person.

Hesitation from the elder to talk openly.

Personal items or credit cards are missing or recently changed.

Lack of food, water, utilities, medications & medical care.

Caregiver has a history of substance abuse, mental illness, criminal behavior or family violence.

Types of Abuse:

Self-neglect requires intervention when elderly or dependent adults fail to meet their own physical, psychological or social needs, fail to manage their own finances, or they threaten their health or safety in any way. Often times, physical or mental illness, isolation or substance abuse prevent elderly or dependent adults from being able to take care of their own basic needs.

Neglect takes place when, intentionally or unintentionally, a caregiver fails to support the physical, emotional and social needs of the elder or dependent adult. Neglect can include denying food or medication, health services or contact with friends and family. Neglect is the most common form of elder mistreatment in domestic settings.

Financial or material exploitation is when someone misuses, mishandles or exploits the elderly or dependent adult's property, possessions or financial assets. This includes using those assets without the individual's consent or manipulating the older or dependent adult for the financial benefit or material gain of another.

Isolation means any of the following:

- Acts intentionally committed for preventing, or that serve to prevent, an elder or dependent adult from receiving his or her mail or telephone calls.
- Telling a caller or prospective visitor that an elder or dependent adult is:
 - not present,
 - does not wish to talk with the caller,
 - or does not wish to meet with the visitor.
- Where false statements are made contrary to the wishes of the elder or the dependent adult, whether he or she is competent or not, and is preventing the elder or dependent adult from having contact with family, friends, or concerned persons.
- False imprisonment, as defined in Section 236 of the Penal Code.
- Physical restraint of an elder or dependent adult, preventing the elder or dependent from meeting with visitors.

Emotional abuse is threatening, intimidating or humiliating an individual and causing them emotional pain, distress or anguish. Emotional abuse can be verbal or non-verbal; it includes insults, yelling and threats of harm or isolation.

Physical abuse includes slapping, hitting, bruising, beating or any other intentional act that causes someone physical pain, injury or suffering. Physical abuse also includes excessive forms of restraint used to confine someone against their will (i.e. tying, chaining or locking someone in a room).

Sexual abuse is any sexual activity to which the older or dependent adult does not consent or is incapable of consenting. Non-consensual sexual activity includes everything from exhibitionism to sexual intercourse.

Abandonment occurs when a caregiver deserts an elderly or dependent person.