

# What is elder abuse?



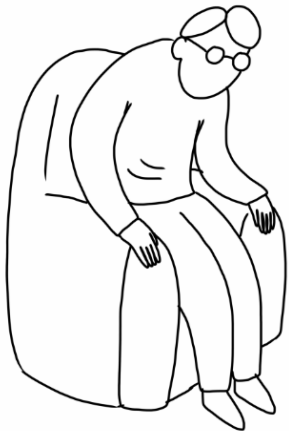
FAMILY VIOLENCE LAW HELP

[www.familyviolencelaw.gov.au](http://www.familyviolencelaw.gov.au)

Elder abuse is when a person causes harm or distress to an older person who has a relationship of trust with them - like an adult child, their partner or a carer.

It can be a type of domestic and family violence and can include physical abuse, psychological or emotional abuse, social abuse, financial abuse, sexual abuse and neglect.

Some examples of elder abuse can include:



- Living in an older person's home and refusing to help pay for expenses, or refusing to care for them after agreeing to.
- Refusing to pay back loans or abusing power of attorney agreements.
- Stealing money or belongings from an older person, or breaking their belongings.
- Forcing an older person to sign a will, contract or power of attorney agreement.
- Neglecting an older person, for example - failing to provide them with food or medical care.
- Bullying, name-calling, verbal abuse or repeatedly telling them they have dementia.
- Treating an older person like a child.
- Threatening to put an older person in a nursing home or threatening to stop seeing them.
- Stopping an older person from seeing their friends or family.
- Pushing, shoving or being rough with an older person.
- Unwanted sexual contact.

For more information, including services that can help, see [www.familyviolencelaw.gov.au](http://www.familyviolencelaw.gov.au)

*While we have tried to make the information here as up-to-date and accurate as possible, the law is complex and always changing. All legal problems are different. You should see a lawyer to get advice about your problem. Legal Aid NSW, National Legal Aid and the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department are not liable for any errors or omissions, or for any loss or damage that arises from any person who relies on any information on this factsheet. This factsheet was developed in 2019.*