RESOURCE GUIDE
FOR
ELDER ABUSE
MONROE COUNTY 2013
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**Elder Crisis Services in Monroe County**

**NATIONAL & STATE RESOURCES**

Area Agency on Aging 1-B.................................1-800-852-7795  
Department of Human Services..............................1-855-444-3911  
(*Adult Protective Services*)  
National Elder Abuse Hot Line...............................1-800-677-1116  
Michigan Attorney General Health Care Fraud........1-800-242-2873  
Michigan Health Facility Abuse Hot Line..............1-800-882-6006  
Michigan Office of Financial & Insurance Regulation...1-877-999-6442  
Michigan Ombudsman for Long Term Care..............1-866-485-9393  
(*Complaints about nursing homes.*)

**HOUSING, FOOD & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Family Counseling and Shelter Services..............734-242-SAFE  
M.C.O.P. ....................................................................734-241-2775  
(*Monroe County Opportunity Program*)  
Meals on Wheels .......................................................734-242-6800  
(*Living Independence For Everyone*)  
Senior Day Care Service............................................734-243-6210  
(*Frenchtown Senior Citizens Center*)

**LEGAL / FINANCIAL**

Department of Human Services .............................1-855-444-3911  
(*Adult Protective Services*)  
Legal Services for Southeast Michigan...............734-241-8310  
Monroe County Senior Legal Services...............734-241-8394  
Social Security Administration in Monroe.............1-877-326-0102  
(*To report misuse of social security money.*)

**MEDICAL**

Monroe Community Ambulance..............................734-242-5510  
Mercy Memorial Hospital Emergency.....................734-240-8400

This list is not inclusive of all services. For a more comprehensive listing see the Monroe County’s Senior Source, the yellow pages and an internet search engine.
What is Elder Abuse?

Laws and definitions of terms vary considerably from one state to another, but broadly defined, abuse may be:

**Physical Abuse** - Inflicting physical pain or injury on a senior, e.g. slapping, bruising, or restraining by physical or chemical means.

**Sexual Abuse** - Non-consensual sexual contact of any kind.

**Neglect** - The failure by those responsible to provide food, shelter, health care, or protection for a volunteer elder.

**Exploitation** - The illegal taking, misuse, or concealment of funds, property, or assets of a senior for someone else’s benefit.

**Abandonment** - Desertion of a vulnerable elder by anyone who has assumed the responsibility for care or custody of that person.

**Self-Neglect** - Characterized as the failure of a person to perform essential, self care tasks and that such failure threatens his/her own health or safety.

What are the Warning Signs of Elder Abuse?

While one sign does not necessarily indicate abuse, some tell-tale signs that there could be a problem are:

- Bruises, pressure marks, broken bones, abrasions, and burns may be an indication of physical abuse, neglect, or mistreatment.
- Unexplained withdrawal from normal activities, a sudden change in alertness, or an unusual depression may be indicators of emotional abuse.
- Bruises around the breasts or genital area can occur from sexual abuse.
- Sudden changes in financial situations may be the result of exploitation.
- Bedsores, unattended medical needs, poor hygiene, and unusual weight loss are indicators of possible neglect.
- Behavior such as belittling, threats, and other uses of power and control by spouses or others are indicators of verbal or emotional abuse.
- Strained or tense relationships, frequent arguments between the caregiver and elderly person are also signs.

Most importantly, be alert. The suffering is often in silence. If you notice changes in a senior’s personality or behavior, you should start to question what is going on.
Action Steps for Responders

- Each crisis and incident of elder abuse is unique. You may need to identify what specifically is abusive about this situation, and develop a unique response with effective action.

- When managing a crisis, especially for the first time, you may do best to have a supervisor or supportive person help you work through what to do. If you are alone and without support, consider calling the Commission on Aging, 734-240-7363 or the Area Agency on Aging 1-B, 1-800-852-7795.

- If you suspect abuse, before taking specific action, establish in your own mind what type of elder abuse it is. You may wish to use the definition and signs above to identify the possible abuse.

- The action steps below are grouped by different types of community responders. They are suggested only and intended to help responders to identify an effective course of action for your case.

Neighbor/Concerned Citizens

1. For concerns about immediate physical safety and crime, call the police, 911. Some police departments will do a safety wellness visit. In case of a specific crime, encourage the police officer to write a report documenting evidence.

2. For concerns about how one family member treats an elderly person, consider contacting other family members.

3. If the elder person or family member has been involved in church, consider contacting the church to see if they will help.

4. For concerns about mental health and self-neglect, consider contacting the Monroe County Community Mental Health Authority, 734-243-7340, sometimes they will do in home assessments.

5. When you have evidence about physical abuse or neglect, consider making a report to Department of Human Services (Adult Protective Services), 1-855-444-3911.

6. For general concerns and additional information, contact the Monroe County Commission on Aging, 734-240-7363, or the Area Agency on Aging 1-B, 1-800-852-7795.
Family Members

1. For concerns about immediate physical safety and crime, consider contacting the police, 911. Some police departments will do a wellness visit. In case of a specific crime, encourage the police officer to write a report documenting evidence.

2. For life threatening medical concerns, consider taking your elder to Mercy Memorial Hospital Emergency Center, 734-240-8400. For less severe medical concerns, consider taking your elder to a physician. Sometimes a dementia assessment by a qualified psychologist is a helpful first step in taking other legal or medical steps.

3. Sometime a single family member has been stressed too much in a caretaker role. The caretaker may need a break or help from other family members in managing a crisis.

4. If the family has been involved with the church, consider engaging the church in gaining assistance or resolving disputes.

5. For resolving serious family disputes, establishing durable power of attorney and other legal concerns, consider going to an attorney.

6. For misuse of Social Security money, consider calling the Social Security Administration, 1-877-326-0121.

7. For concerns about the safety of an elderly person in an assisted living facility or nursing home, first try to address concerns directly with the facility’s administrative staff. If your concerns remain unresolved, consider calling Lakeshore Legal Aid, 1-888-898-2022 or 1-866-485-9393 or Michigan Health Facility Abuse Hot Line, 1-800-882-6006, or the Michigan Ombudsman for Long Term Care, 1-866-485-9393.

Home Health Care Providers

1. With most crises and emergencies, contact your agency supervisor and follow your agency procedures for emergencies.

2. If you are facing a true medical emergency, call an ambulance, 734-242-5510.

3. If you are facing a true safety and criminal emergency, call the police, 911.
**Assisted Living & Nursing Home Staff**

1. With most crises and emergency, contact your agency supervisor and follow your agency procedures for emergencies.

2. When your agency does not recognize and does not try to respond, consider contacting the Lakeshore Legal Aid, 1-888-898-2022 or 1-866-485-9393 or Michigan Health Facility Abuse Hot Line, 1-800-882-6006.

**Firefighter**

1. Call the Police, 911.

2. Call the Ambulance, 734-242-5510.

3. When you have evidence about physical abuse or neglect consider making a report to the Monroe County Adult Protective Services (Adult Protective Services), 1-855-444-3911.

**Community Professional in Contact with Elders**

1. When interacting with elders and their family members, a community professional is sometimes the first person to become aware of a potential problem. Family members may need to be constructively informed about the potential of abuse. Family members also need to be supported while making constructive changes.

2. Sometimes joining an elder caretaker support group can help prevent abuse.

3. For general concerns and additional information, contact the Monroe County Commission on Aging, 734-240-7363, or the Area Agency on Aging 1-B, (800) 852-7795.

4. When a family is not taking steps to stop an abusive situation, and when the elder is in danger, consider calling Department of Human Services (Adult Protective Services), 1-855-444-3911. Licensed professionals have a legal obligation to report elder abuse.

5. For workshops on raising community awareness about Elder Abuse, please contact the Neighborhood Legal Services of Michigan / Elder Law and Advocacy Center at 1-313-937-8291.
Police
(Attorneys, Family Members & Other Officers of the Court)

Establish Evidence and Report Pertinent Facts

For family members and attorneys, a psychological assessment by a qualified geriatric psychologist may be an important necessary first step before taking other actions.

**Physical Abuse**

Consider Potential Criminal Offenses:
- Assault & Battery.................................MCL 750.81
- Kidnapping........................................MCL 750.349
- Vulnerable Adult Abuse......................MCL 750.145
- Unlawful Imprisonment.......................MCL 750.349(b)
- Torture.............................................MCL 750.85
- Assault with Intent to Murder............MCL 750.83

Consider Potential Civil Remedies:
- Disinherit the Abuser ......................MCL 764.(a)
- Exploitation of Vulnerable Victim ........MCL 777.40(1)(2)(3)
- Injuries to Person & Property.............MCL 600.5805(1)(2)(3)(4)
- Report to Adult Protective Services.....MCL 400.11(a)

**Sexual Abuse**

Consider Potential Criminal Offenses:
- 1\(^{st}\) Degree Criminal Sexual Contact.......MCL 750.520(b)
- 2\(^{nd}\) Degree Criminal Sexual Contact........MCL 750.520(c)
- 3\(^{rd}\) Degree Criminal Sexual Contact ........MCL 750.520(d)
- 4\(^{th}\) Degree Criminal Sexual Contact........MCL 750.520(e)

Consider Potential Civil Remedies:
- Report to Adult Protective Services.......MCL 400.11(a)

**Stalking**

Consider Potential Criminal Offenses:
- Stalking............................................MCL 750.411(h)

Consider Potential Civil Remedies:
- Personal Protection Order ..................MCL 600.2950
  MCL 600.2950(a)
- Report to Adult Protective Services.....MCL 400.11(a)
**NEGLECT**

Consider Potential Criminal Offenses:
- Vulnerable Adult Abuse 2\textsuperscript{nd} Degree ........MCL 750.145(n)(2)
- Vulnerable Adult Abuse 4\textsuperscript{th} Degree.........MCL 750.145(n)(4)
- Neglect by Caregiver ........................................MCL 750.145(p)
- Failure to Report Adult Protective Services .....MCL 400.11(a)
- Providing False Information .........................MCL 333.20173(a)(8)
  MCL 400.734(b)(9)
  MCL 333.1134a
- Using/Disseminating Criminal History ............MCL 333.20173(a)(9)
- Failure to Conduct Criminal History Checks ..... MCL 333.1134(a)(11)

Consider Potential Civil Remedies:
- Report to Adult Protective Services........MCL 400.11(a)(1-6)
- Negligent Hiring or Retention.................. Common Law

**FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION**

Consider Potential Criminal Offenses:
- Financial Exploitation of a Vulnerable Adult..MCL 750.1741
- Financial Exploitation of a
- Vulnerable Adult Penalty ......................MCL 750.174(a)(6,7)
- Larceny ..................................................MCL 750.356
- Larceny (False Pretenses to Defraud) .....MCL 750.218
- Larceny from a Person .............................MCL 750.357
- Embezzlement ...........................................MCL 750.174
- Forgery ..................................................MCL 750.250
- Uttering & Publishing ..........................MCL 750.24
- Home Invasion .........................................MCL 750.110(a)
- Counterfeit Marks .................................MCL 750.263
- Trust Relationship with a Vulnerable Adult....MCL 750.174(a)
- False Pretenses with the Intent to Defraud ....MCL 750.218
- Malicious Threats to Extort Money............MCL 750.213

Consider Potential Civil Remedies:
- Report to Adult Protective Services ......MCL 400.11(a)
- Durable Financial Power of Attorney......MCL 700.5501
- Revocation of Financial Power of Attorney ...MCL 700.5503
- Power of Attorney Limitations ...........MCL 700.5501(4)
- Appointment of Conservator .................MCL 700.5409
- Conservator Reporting Requirements ..........MCL 700.5305
- Bond May Be Required ..............................MCL 700.3902
- Demand to Review Conservator’s Records.....MCL 700.5417

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Conservator Limited in Mortgaging Property .................................................MCL 700.5422(3) MCL 700.5410
Appointment of a Guardian ......................................................MCL 700.5303
Removal of a Guardian ..........................................................MCL 700.5414
Exploitation (Consumer Protection Act) ..........................MCL 445.903

Crisis Prevention: Routine Elder Services

GENERAL ELDER RESOURCE AGENCIES
Monroe County Commission on Aging ...................... 734-240-7363
United Way ............................................................... Dial 211 or 734-242-1331
Area Agency on Aging 1-B .............................................. 800-852-7795

MONROE COUNTY SENIOR CENTERS
Ash Senior Center .............................................................. 734-654-2006
Bedford Senior Center ....................................................... 734-856-3330
Berlin Senior Citizens Center ............................................. 734-586-2187
Dundee Area Senior Citizens Center ............................... 734-529-2401
Frenchtown Senior Citizens Center ................................. 734-243-6210
Milan Senior Citizens Center .............................................. 734-439-4310
Monroe Center for Healthy Aging .................................... 734-241-0404

MEDICAL
Mercy Memorial Hospital Find a Doctor ...................... 734-240-8400 (mercymemorial.org)
Monroe County Health Department ................................. 734-240-7849

MENTAL HEALTH & COUNSELING
Catholic Social Services of Monroe ................................. 734-240-3850
Family Center ............................................................... 734-240-1760
Family Counseling and Shelter Services ...................... 734-241-0180
Gabby’s Ladder Inc .......................................................... 734-242-1760
Human Potential Center .................................................... 734-241-9142
Monroe County Mental Health Authority ......................... 734-243-7340 (For assessment and referral.)

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Progressive Guidance Center............................... 734-241-4851
Self & Family Behavioral Health Care..................... 734-586-0031

**LEGAL**

Legal Services for Southeast Michigan .................. 734-241-8310
Monroe County Prosecutor’s Office ...................... 734-240-7600
Monroe County Probate Court.............................. 734-240-7346
Monroe County Senior Legal Services................... 734-241-7644
Neighborhood Legal Services of Michigan /
Elder Law and Advocacy Center ............................ 1-313-937-8291
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