

## To Report Financial Abuse or Fraud

- To report the misuse of a Veteran's VA benefits, call 1-800-488-8244 or email [VAOIGHotline@VA.gov](mailto:VAOIGHotline@VA.gov)
- You may also contact the Veterans Benefits Administration at 1-800-827-1000 or VA Fiduciary Hub at 1-888-407-0144
- For assistance concerning VA Extended Care & Home Care fraud, email [VHAPurchasedLTSSSupportGroup@va.gov](mailto:VHAPurchasedLTSSSupportGroup@va.gov)
- Visit the **Elder Abuse Resource Roadmap: Financial** to find the right reporting agency for financial harms at [elderjustice.gov/roadmap](http://elderjustice.gov/roadmap)



## Other Helpful Resources

- Visit the Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse & Neglect's Veteran website <http://www.centeronelderabuse.org/veterans.asp>
- A *Guide for VA Fiduciaries* can be downloaded at [http://benefits.va.gov/FIDUCIARY/Fid\\_Guide.pdf](http://benefits.va.gov/FIDUCIARY/Fid_Guide.pdf)

For more information about the Department of Justice's efforts to prevent and combat elder abuse, please visit the Elder Justice Website at:

**[elderjustice.gov](http://elderjustice.gov)**

[elderjustice.gov](http://elderjustice.gov)

## How to Get Immediate Help

### Call 911

*For life threatening circumstances*

### Call the Veterans Crisis Line

*If you are in imminent danger and would like immediate assistance*

**1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255), Press 1**  
<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>

### Contact your local Adult Protective Services

*Find your local Adult Protective Services office using the locator map*

<http://www.napsa-now.org/get-help/help-in-your-area/>

**IN SOUTH CAROLINA,**  
**please contact the U.S. Attorney's Office**  
**Elder Justice Coordinator at**  
**(864) 282-2100**

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*Get the facts about*

**Elder Abuse**  
*Empowering  
Older Veterans*



## Older Veterans may be at Risk for Elder Abuse

- Almost 10 million Veterans are 65 or older. National studies find that over 10% of older adults are victims of elder abuse annually.
- Exposure to combat and military sexual trauma is associated with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and physical, mental health, alcohol, and drug problems. These problems are known to put older adults at risk for abuse and financial exploitation.
- Family members and caretakers may encourage or force older Veterans to take drugs or drink excessively to make them “easier” to care for or exploit financially.
- Veterans who have poor relationships with their families may not receive adequate care by these family members.
- Veterans who receive Veteran benefits such as a VA pension, VA Compensation per VBA, or Aid and Attendance can be at risk for financial abuse.
- As a result of providing care for an older Veteran with physical and mental health problems, caregivers may experience a decline in their own physical and mental health.

## Warning Signs by Type of Abuse

### Physical Abuse

- Bruises, black eyes, welts, lacerations, or rope marks
- Broken eyeglasses
- Medication overdose or under-utilization of prescribed drugs
- A sudden change in behavior

### Psychological Abuse

- Being emotionally upset, agitated, withdrawn, non-communicative, or non-responsive
- Unusual behavior such as sucking, biting, or rocking
- The caregiver’s refusal to allow visitors to see an older Veteran alone
- Apologizing excessively

### Sexual Abuse

- Bruises around the breasts or genital area
- Unexplained venereal disease or genital infections
- Showing fear or becoming withdrawn when around a specific person
- Unexplained blood found on sheets, linens, or clothing

### Neglect and Abandonment

- Dehydration, malnutrition, untreated bed sores, and poor personal hygiene
- Unattended or untreated health problems
- Unsanitary, unclean, or unsafe living conditions
- The desertion of an older Veteran at a shopping center or other public location

### Financial Abuse

- Unexplained changes in bank accounts or banking practices
- Abrupt changes in a will or other financial documents
- Unexplained disappearance of funds or valuable possessions
- Sudden unexplained transfer of assets