

# Mandatory Reporting of Elder Abuse

**The Law: SB-111 Requires mandatory reporting of Elder Abuse-Any person who is 70 years of age or older is considered an “at risk elder” . Effective: July 1, 2014**

## **Who Are Mandatory Reporters?**

**Medical Professionals–** Doctors, Dentists, podiatrists, PT/OT Therapists

**Medical Examiners & Coroners**

**Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses**

**Social Work Practitioners**

**Law Enforcement**

**Court Appointed Guardians/Conservators**

**Fire Protection Personnel**

**Community-Centered Board Staff**

**Health Care Facilities**

**Home Care Placement Agencies**

**Pharmacist**

**Financial Institutions**

**Emergency Medical Service Providers**

A Caretaker, Staff Member, Employee, Volunteer, or Consultant for a licensed or certified facility, agency or governing board, including but not limited to Home Health Providers

**Clergy**

## **When Do I Report?**

Within 24 Hours, you **MUST** file a report to Law Enforcement. They will ask you for the pertinent information on the suspected abuse and alleged perpetrator.

## What Do I Look For?

### Physical Abuse-

Someone causing bodily harm to an At-Risk Adult, such as causing physical pain or bruising, unreasonable confinement or restraints.

#### Example:

A Caretaker roughly handles the At-Risk Elder, causing pain

A Non-ambulatory At-Risk Elder is left alone for long periods of time, or for “Safety Reasons” is restrained in a wheelchair or elsewhere using rope or other materials.

### Caretaker Neglect-

When a caretaker fails to make sure the At-Risk Elder has adequate or timely: food, clothing, shelter, psychological, physical or medical care, or supervision.

#### Signs of caretaker neglect:

Unusual weight-loss-dehydration or malnutrition

Being left in soiled clothing

Failure to provide water or food

Untreated physical problems such as bed sores

Unsafe living conditions— no heat, faulty electrical wiring, fire hazards

Unsanitary living conditions

Improper use of medications in order to control the Elder

Being left alone when unable to self-care

Lack of medical aids

### Exploitation-

Taking an At-Risk Elder’s money or other assets against their will or without their knowledge. Deceiving, harassing, intimidating or using undue influence to get the elder to do something against their will.

#### Examples:

Guardians, Conservators misusing the Elder’s money

Family member uses Power of Attorney status to access funds for his personal use

At-Risk Elder suffers a disabling medical condition and family member moves into the home as a caretaker. Family member threatens to put elder in nursing home if elder does not give family member money.

### Sexual Abuse

**<<SPEAK UP! It is the Law>>**

Denver Adult Protective Services Intake Line:

**720-944-2994**

Questions?

Contact Juanita Rios-Johnston: [Juanita.rios-johnston@denvergov.org](mailto:Juanita.rios-johnston@denvergov.org)

720-944-2900