

ABANDONMENT

Signs could include but are not limited to the caregiver or family member:

- Stopping visits with the vulnerable adult for long periods of time;
- Stopping payment of fees to a care facility; and
- Losing contact with the vulnerable adult or professionals

FINANCIAL ABUSE

Signs could include but are not limited to:

- Unexplained withdrawal of money from a vulnerable adult's bank account, beyond the vulnerable adult's normal needs;
- Denial of access to the vulnerable adult's own property or funds; and
- The caregiver's refusal to spend money for the care of the vulnerable adult.

MORE ABOUT PERSONS WHO ABUSE

A person who abuses may defend his/her actions, or deny that he/she has harmed the vulnerable adult, or may simply not be conscious of the negative effect of his/her actions on the vulnerable adult. Persons who abuse may include family members, adult children, caregivers or the spouse of the victim.

Persons who abuse may be:

- Experiencing stress as caregivers from having to care for the vulnerable adult without any rest or support from other family members.
- Lonely themselves and isolated from society.
- Poor at communicating with the vulnerable adult.
- Unable to fully understand the needs, abilities and/or capacity of the vulnerable adult.
- Financially dependent on the vulnerable adult.

It takes courage to speak up when you see a vulnerable adult being abused, or to disclose the abuse if you are a victim or to admit that you may be abusing a vulnerable adult. Please seek help early.

DO SEEK HELP EARLY

HELP LINES

ComCare Call
1800 222 0000

FAMILY VIOLENCE SPECIALIST CENTRES

PAVE

6555 0390
<http://pave.org.sg>

TRANS SAFE Centre

6449 9088
<http://www.transfamilyservices.org.sg/safe.html>

Care Corner Project StART

6476 1482
<http://www.carecorner.org.sg/start.html>

You can also find more information at:
<http://www.stopfamilyviolence.sg>



**FAMILY
VIOLENCE
DESTROY LIVES**

SEEK HELP EARLY

Stop Abuse of Vulnerable Adults

If you are, or someone you know is experiencing family violence,
call ComCare Call at 1800 222 0000

Visit www.stopfamilyviolence.sg

STOP ABUSE OF VULNERABLE ADULTS



Family violence is any violent, threatening or controlling behaviour that occurs within the family, causing a person to live in fear.

WHAT IS A VULNERABLE ADULT?

A vulnerable adult is someone who

- Is above 21 years of age,
- Has a disability (mental or physical),
- Is dependent on someone else, and
- Is unable to stop abuse.

WHAT IS ABUSE OF VULNERABLE ADULTS?

The abuse of a vulnerable adult refers to any act, or failure to act, by a person or caregiver in a position of trust or control, which puts the safety, health or well-being of a vulnerable adult at risk. It can be a single act, or it can occur over a period of time. It can be deliberate or unintended.

THERE ARE VARIOUS TYPES OF ABUSE

PHYSICAL ABUSE

These are acts which cause physical pain or injury to the vulnerable adult, such as beating, pushing, misusing medication, using wrongful restraints, or any methods to limit a vulnerable adult's freedom to move or confining a vulnerable adult against his/her will.

EMOTIONAL & PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE

These are acts which cause emotional or psychological distress to the vulnerable adult, including threatening, humiliating, insulting, bullying, harassing or isolating the victim from family and friends.

SEXUAL ABUSE

This happens when a vulnerable adult is forced to take part in sexual activity against his or her will, or when he or she is unable to give consent due to lack of mental ability. The acts may range from exposure to pornography and sexual language, to intrusive acts such as molestation or rape.

NEGLECT

This refers to situations where a vulnerable adult's basic needs are not met, such as food, housing, clothing, physical and medical care, and financial support.

ABANDONMENT

This occurs when a family member or caregiver deliberately puts a vulnerable adult in a situation where the vulnerable adult would have to look after his or her own needs, when it is beyond his or her ability. This also includes situations where a vulnerable adult is left at home, or in an institution or care facility, without financial or other necessary support.

FINANCIAL ABUSE

This occurs when a person takes advantage of a vulnerable adult's money or resources for personal gain. This can include theft, fraud, scams, or putting pressure on the vulnerable adult to make or change a will, transfer property or make other deals.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF ABUSE

A vulnerable adult may be upset or fearful in the presence of a specific person, or show other changed behaviours. It is important to pay careful attention to vulnerable adults, especially when they are not able to report abuse.

The following signs and symptoms can indicate that a vulnerable adult may be abused:

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Signs could include but are not limited to:

- A history of unexplained and multiple injuries at different stages of healing;
- Delay in reporting and obtaining medical treatment;
- Unexplained burns or broken bones; and
- Unexplained hair or weight loss.

EMOTIONAL & PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE

Signs could include but are not limited to:

- High anxiety;
- Depression;
- Neurotic disorders (e.g. problems sleeping);
- Social withdrawal or isolation; and
- Suicidal tendencies or behaviour.

SEXUAL ABUSE

Signs could include but are not limited to:

- Torn or stained undergarments;
- Pain, itching or injuries in the genital areas; and
- Feelings of guilt or shame.

NEGLECT

Signs could include but are not limited to:

- Poor nutrition;
- Poor hygiene;
- Dirty or unsuitable clothing; and
- Medical or practical needs ignored.

