

At-Risk Adult Resources for Criminal Justice Professionals

In this document, at-risk adults refer to an adults age 60 or older and adults over age 18 with a disability.

At-Risk Adult Crime Tactics (ACT) Specialist Certification

<http://aging.dhs.georgia.gov/forensic-special-investigations-unit-fsiu>

The Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) Division of Aging Services (DAS) Forensics Special Investigations Unit (FSIU) conducts a two-day ACT (At-Risk Adult Crime Tactics) Specialist Certification. ACT classes are limited to primary and secondary responders to ensure those who respond to crimes against at-risk adults know how to respond appropriately to best meet the needs of at-risk adult crime victims.

Some topics covered during ACT classes include:

- GA Law
- Types and indicators of the various types of abuse, neglect, & exploitation
- Financial crimes targeting older adults and adults with disabilities
- Undue influence
- Power of Attorney, Guardianship, Conservatorship
- Investigations
- Suspicious Death
- Human trafficking for monthly benefits
- Crimes in facilities
- And much more

ACT Specialists:

- Are go-to experts in their department/region regarding at-risk adult crimes
- Have direct access to FSIU for real-time exchange of crime trends around GA
- Have access to ongoing training opportunities and updates
- Are encouraged to participate in multidisciplinary teams in their regions of the state.

ACT emphasizes a multidisciplinary approach to the investigation of these crimes. This emphasis should increase collaboration between various agencies with diverse legal authority and priorities in order to address crimes against at-risk adults.

16 hours POST credit, 16 hours EMS credit, 12 hours CLE

Officers must attend both days to receive POST credit.

For information on available classes and registration, visit: <http://actschedule.wordpress.com/>

Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation of At-Risk Adults (POST Course Code ICE01G)

This course is designed to give law enforcement officers the basic skills needed when responding to crimes involving at-risk adults. The course covers at-risk adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation as it relates to Georgia law, describes the types of abuse (physical, sexual, emotional, neglect, and exploitation), explains the role of Georgia social service agencies (Adult Protective Services, Healthcare Facility Regulation, Long-term Care Ombudsman Program, and Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability) and the basics of investigating, e.g. evidence, red flags, and tips for interviewing at-risk adults.

If your department is interested in providing this course, please have your training officer contact David Blake for the course materials at dfblake@dhr.state.ga.us.

At-Risk Adult Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation in Georgia: Review and Recommendation

http://www.gachiefs.com/pdfs/White%20Papers_Committee%20Reports/AtRiskAdultAbuseWhitePaper.pdf

The Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police unanimously adopted a Law Enforcement White Paper on At Risk Adult Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation in Georgia: Review and Recommendations.

At-Risk Adult Abuse Roll Call Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PNAIy6cys2Y>

20 minute law enforcement roll call video about the issue of elder abuse and abuse of adults with disabilities.

At-Risk Adult Crime for 9-1-1 Personnel (POST Course Code IYD13G)

This course is designed to give public safety communication center call-takers and dispatchers answering a call of a crime involving an at-risk adult, information to recognize the indicators of abuse, identify the state social service agencies responsible for investigating, and learn basic tips for interviewing an at-risk adult crime victim.

If your department is interested in providing this course, please have your training officer contact David Blake for the course materials at dfblake@dhr.state.ga.us.

10 Tips Series

<http://www.eldersandcourts.org/Training/10-Tips-Series.aspx>

Developed by the Center for Elders and the Courts, the "10 Tips Series" are online training tools that are available at your convenience. Topics cover a wide assortment of subjects, from hearing cases with elderly witnesses to working with Adult Protective Services and establishing adult guardianships. Training tools range in length from approximately 15 to 35 minutes.

Bruising in Older Adults: Accidental Bruising and Bruising from Physical Abuse

http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/Resources/Publication/docs/NCEA_ResearchTranslation_bruising_508.pdf

A National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) research translation on accidental bruising and bruising from physical abuse. NCEA research translations highlight key points of aging- and abuse-related research articles for use by practitioners working with older adults.

Carr Case Overview – Cobb County

<https://dhr.webex.com/dhr/ldr.php?RCID=888144edfb33dacbf886ffe3057caa36>

John Melvin, Deputy Chief Assistant DA for Cobb County and Investigator David Chesney with the Cobb County Sheriff's Office discuss a multi-million dollar exploitation case in Cobb County.

Commonly Asked Questions about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) & Law Enforcement

http://www.ada.gov/q&a_law.htm

Information from the Department of Justice (DOJ) on suggestions drawn from real-life situations to assist law enforcement agencies in complying with the ADA when enforcing the law. Call the DOJ's toll-free ADA Information Line for additional answers to questions at 1-800-514-0301 (voice) or 1-800-514-0383 (TTY).

Communicating with People Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing: ADA Guide for Law Enforcement Officers

<http://www.ada.gov/lawenfcomm.pdf>

Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice (2006), 8 pages

Pocket guide providing basic information for officers about ADA requirements for communicating effectively with people who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

Durable Power of Attorney Abuse: It's A Crime Too

<http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/Resources/Publication/docs/DurablePowerOfAttorneyAbuseFactSheetCriminalJusticeProfessionals.pdf>

Victims of durable power of attorney (DPA) abuse or their family members often report that their attempts to report this abuse to law enforcement are rebuffed with the following statement: "It's a civil problem. Go talk to a civil lawyer." While DPA abuse is a civil problem, it is also a crime and should be treated as one. An increasing number of newspaper stories describe successful investigations and prosecutions of DPA abuse. But too many criminal justice professionals still lack awareness of DPA abuse and the role they can play in holding offenders accountable and obtaining justice for victims. This fact sheet will enhance their awareness.

Elder Abuse Curriculum

<http://www.eldersandcourts.org/Training/Elder-Abuse-Curriculum.aspx>

The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) developed this curriculum in collaboration with the Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse and Neglect at the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine, with support from the Retirement Research Foundation of Chicago (grant number 2008-056). State judicial educators are welcome to adapt this curriculum for their state training programs.

Elder Victims of Sexual Abuse

<http://www.legalmomentum.org/elder-victims-sexual-abuse>

Legal Momentum's National Judicial Education Program (NJEP) has created this model curriculum that can be used to train a wide variety of justice-system professionals, including judges, prosecutors and other attorneys, court staff, victim advocates, probation department professions, batterer intervention professionals, and others. Includes a model PowerPoint presentation with suggested commentary, a Faculty Manual, and Participant Exercises.

Financial Crimes Against the Elderly

<http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/Publications/e07042443.pdf>

This guide addresses the problem of financial crimes against the elderly. It begins by describing the problem and reviewing risk factors. It then identifies a series of questions to help you analyze your local problem. Finally, it reviews responses to the problem and describes the conditions under which they are most effective.

First Response to Victims of Crime

<http://ojp.gov/ovc/publications/infores/pdftxt/FirstResponseGuidebook.pdf>

This Department of Justice handbook for law enforcement officers has a section about how to assist crime victims with disabilities. It includes tips on how to interact with people with specific disabilities, such as mental illness or sensory disabilities (i.e., deafness, blindness).

Identifying and Responding to Elder Abuse: A Benchcard for Judges

<http://www.eldersandcourts.org/Elder-Abuse/~media/Microsites/Files/cec/Benchcard.ashx>

Elder abuse is a hidden problem in the justice system and may be an underlying factor in a variety of court cases involving older persons. This guide offers resources that courts may use to identify elder abuse, suggests a variety of actions that strive to protect the older victim of abuse, and encourages courts to engage in leadership opportunities in their local community.

Improving Responses to People with Mental Illnesses: Tailoring Law Enforcement Initiatives to Individual Jurisdictions

https://www.bja.gov/publications/csg_le_tailoring.pdf

A growing number of law enforcement agencies have partnered with mental health agencies and community groups to design and implement innovative programs to improve encounters involving people with mental illnesses. These “specialized policing responses” (SPRs) are designed to produce better outcomes from these encounters by training responders to use crisis de-escalation strategies and prioritize treatment over incarceration when appropriate.

International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Alzheimer's Initiatives

<http://www.theiacp.org/Missing-Alzheimers-Disease-Patient>

With more than 5 million Americans currently living with Alzheimer’s disease and approximately 500,000 new cases of this disease emerging each year, projections pronounce that there could be as many as 16 million Americans that will have Alzheimer’s by 2050. To help law enforcement protect this special population, IACP’s Alzheimer’s Initiatives program is committed to helping first responders improve their knowledge and skills to safeguard this special population.

Justice Responses to Elder Abuse

<https://courses.ncsc.org/course/Elders>

Justice Responses to Elder Abuse is a self-paced course offering a wide array of information and resources to address and reduce elder abuse. It is designed for use by practitioners and members of the public alike. The course presents the latest research on aging issues, including physical,

cognitive and emotional changes that increase an older person's vulnerability to abuse. Medical, prosecution and judicial experts explore the dynamics of elder abuse and highlight individual and systemic barriers to effective remedies for victims. Practitioners in the justice system will discover how specific tools can improve access to justice and enhance outcomes for older victims of abuse. The course units include a mix of expert presentations and discussions, video clips, interactive exercises and supplemental resources.

National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability

<http://www.thearc.org/NCCJD>

The National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability was created by The Arc for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It is the first national effort of its kind to bring together both victim and suspect/offender issues involving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (or I/DD) under one roof. NCCJD's goal is to build the capacity of the criminal justice system to respond to gaps in existing services for people with disabilities, focusing on people with I/DD who remain a hidden population within the criminal justice system with little or no access to advocacy supports or services. The NCCJD's products and services include training, an online resource library and more.

National Institute on Justice: Elder Abuse

<http://www.nij.gov/topics/crime/elder-abuse/Pages/welcome.aspx>

NIJ's primary objectives regarding elder mistreatment are to identify emerging promising practices and evaluate their effectiveness in improving prevention, detection, and intervention efforts.

Practical Issues: Preparing and Prosecuting Elder Sexual Assault Cases

<http://www.pcar.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdfs/preparingprosecutingcasespreparingprosecuting.pdf>

This booklet explores obstacles to prosecution and offers practical solutions for professionals involved in cases of elder sexual abuse.

Promising Practices in Serving Crime Victims with Disabilities

http://www.ovc.gov/publications/infores/ServingVictimsWithDisabilities_toolkit/pfv.html

This toolkit is a guide and resource for organizations seeking to improve their skills and response to crime victims with disabilities. It is designed to benefit a wide range of entities and explore a variety of issues, but its primary use is for identifying and addressing the issues and obstacles that people with disabilities encounter in the aftermath of abuse or victimization.

Responding to Crime Victims with Disabilities

<http://www.victimsofcrime.org/library/resource-directory-victims-with-disabilities>

This Resource Directory is designed to help community advocates working in the fields of crime victim assistance, disability services, law enforcement, and allied professions improve their response to victims with disabilities. Subject listings in the side bar provide quick access to specific sections of the directory.

Serving Crime Victims with Disabilities

<http://ojp.gov/ovc/pdftxt/188514.pdf>

Brochure from the U.S. Department of Justice written for victim assistance providers who want to learn more about serving victims of crime who have disabilities.

Sexual Assault Modules

<http://www.legalmomentum.org/materials-for-judicial-education>

Legal Momentum's National Judicial Education Program (NJEP) has created model curricula on topics related to sexual assault cases that can be used to train a wide variety of justice-system professionals, including judges, prosecutors and other attorneys, court staff, victim advocates, probation department professions, batterer intervention professionals, and others. Each curriculum includes a model PowerPoint presentation with suggested commentary, a Faculty Manual, and Participant Exercises. Legal Momentum has curricula on the following topics:

- Intimate Partner Sexual Abuse
- Elder Victims of Sexual Abuse
- Interpreters in Adult Victim Sexual Assault Cases
- Jury Selection and Decision Making in Adult Victim Sexual Assault Cases
- Women in Drug Treatment Courts: Sexual Assault as the Underlying Trauma
- The Challenges of Adult Victim Sexual Assault Cases: Materials for New Judges
- Raped or "Seduced"? How Language Helps Shape Our Response to Sexual Violence
- Medical Forensic Sexual Examinations: What Are They and What Can They Tell the Courts?

Supporting Crime Victims with Disabilities Curriculum

https://www.ovcttac.gov/views/TrainingMaterials/dspCVDisabilitiesCurriculum_English.cfm

This 3-day training is designed for victim service providers, advocates for people with disabilities, self-advocates, and allied professionals. Using case studies and small group discussions, participants will examine the prevalence of crime against people with disabilities,

perceptions of the criminal justice system, tenets of the disabilities movement, and the impact of disabilities on daily life. Through collaborative activities participants will identify ways the various agencies, organizations, and systems can work together to better serve crime victims with disabilities.

Techniques for Interviewing Crime Victims with Communication or Cognitive Disabilities

<http://www.ovc.gov/publications/infores/pdftxt/VictimsGuideBook.pdf>

This guide from the U.S. Department of Justice offers tips and strategies for law enforcement officials, lawyers and advocates who work with victims of crime who have cognitive or intellectual disabilities or disabilities that make it hard for them to communicate. These guidelines will help ensure that the forensic interviewing process is as successful as possible.

Undue Influence: The Criminal Justice Response

https://www.njdv.org/media/com_programs/materials/3/o.-undue-influence-the-criminal-justice-response.pdf

Undue Influence Committed by Professionals Training

http://theacademy.sdsu.edu/programs/Project_Master/undue-influence-elearning/story.html

This training by the Academy for Professional Excellence, educates elder abuse professionals on how professionals can unduly influence, and thereby exploit, elderly people.

U.S. Department of Justice – Elder Justice Initiative

<http://www.justice.gov/elderjustice/>

A resource for victims of elder abuse and financial exploitation and their families; practitioners who serve them; law enforcement agencies and prosecutors; and researchers seeking to understand and address this silent epidemic plaguing our nation's elders.

Victims with Disabilities: Collaborative, Multidisciplinary First Response

<http://www.disabilityandabuse.org/resources/first-responders.htm>

This 77 minute film is divided into chapters (each about 7 minutes long for use at roll call trainings), providing description and demonstration of the essential factors in interviewing and interacting with individuals with cognitive and communication disabilities when they roll out to the scene. Individuals with disabilities actively participate in teaching the viewer how to best interact with them. Simulations of a crime were used to help demonstrate these interviewing and interaction techniques for individuals with significant disabilities. Click on the link above to download the guidebook, watch a video clip, or to order the complete training video.

Victims with Disabilities: The Forensic Interview

<http://www.ovc.gov/publications/infores/pdf/txt/VictimsGuideBook.pdf>

This 57-minute DVD (NCJ 234678) provides a specific set of guidelines for law enforcement officers, prosecutors, victim advocates, forensic interviewers, and others for interviewing adults and children with communication and/or cognitive disabilities. The link above is for the interactive companion discussion guide which includes a complete transcript of the DVD and a glossary of terms and concepts used in the film is also available.