

DID YOU KNOW?

At-risk adults are defined as individuals who are over the age of 65 or those who are over the age of 18 who are mentally or physically incapacitated.

The most common perpetrators of sexual violence against at-risk adults are family members and caregivers.

Women are sexually assaulted more often than men, whether they have a disability or not. Men with disabilities are often overlooked.

[www.thearc.org]

RESOURCES

Call **1-800-656-HOPE** to find the nearest rape crisis center.

Visit the Georgia Network to End Sexual Assault online at **GNESA.org**.

CONTACT US

FORENSIC SPECIAL INITIATIVES UNIT

To report abuse of an at-risk adult NOT residing in a long-term care facility, call

1-866-552-4464

Choose Option 3

or visit

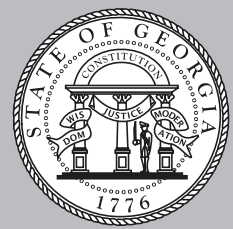
aging.dhs.ga.gov

To report abuse of an at-risk adult residing in a long-term care facility, call

1-800-878-6442

or visit

dch.ga.gov



Georgia Department of Human Services
Division of Aging Services



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**Sexual violence
against at-risk adults**

What to know
& how to help



72% of reported elder sexual abuse occurs in private homes.

[NCALL Sexual Abuse in Later Life Fact Sheet]

WHAT IS SEXUAL ABUSE?

The National Center on Elder Abuse (2007) defines sexual abuse as “non-consenting sexual contact of any kind,” including unwanted touching; sexual assault or battery, such as rape, sodomy and coerced nudity; sexually explicit photographing; and sexual contact with any person incapable of giving consent. Jurisdictions and agencies define “elder” differently but typically as commencing at age 60 or 65.

HOW TO HELP AN AT-RISK ADULT WHO HAS BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED

- Ensure their safety
- Believe them
- Tell them it is not their fault
- Contact the local rape crisis or sexual assault center
- Encourage them to seek counseling
- Help them make a report to law enforcement
- Don't delay — it is everyone's duty to report elder abuse

INFORMATION FOR AT-RISK ADULTS

COMMON FEARS THAT PREVENT DISCLOSURE

- Fear of being put in a nursing home
- Concern about further abuse
- Reluctance to get loved ones “in trouble”
- Worry that no one will believe them

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Keep talking until someone listens
- Know that it's not your fault
- Understand that you are not alone

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- Do you feel safe?
- Are you afraid of anyone at home?
- Has anyone made you feel uncomfortable?
- Has anyone touched you in a way you didn't like?
- Has anyone hurt you?