Nationwide, elder persons or disabled adults lose $36.5 billion annually due to financial exploitation.

1 in 5 Georgians are elder persons or disabled adults.

1 in 10 elder persons or disabled adults are victims of abuse, neglect or exploitation.

1 in 23 cases of abuse, neglect and exploitation are reported.

Did you know?

How to report abuse

To report abuse of an elder person or disabled adult NOT residing in a long-term care facility, contact Adult Protective Services.

1-866-552-4464
aging.georgia.gov

To report abuse of an elder person or disabled adult residing in a long-term care facility, contact the Department of Community Health.

1-800-878-6442
dch.ga.gov

Mandated Reporting

Always contact law enforcement with any suspicions of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Dial 911

What to do when you suspect abuse, neglect or exploitation of an elder person or disabled adult.

50% of people with dementia are abused or neglected by their caregivers.
Are you a mandated reporter?

The list below shows those who are required by law to report suspicions of abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Mandated reporters
Mandated reporters include but are not limited to the following:

- Physicians
- Interns/Residents
- Osteopaths
- Podiatrists
- Optometrists
- Dentists
- Chiropractors
- Pharmacists
- Occupational Therapists
- Physical Therapists
- Psychiatrists
- Psychologists
- Licensed Professional Counselors
- Social Workers
- Day-Care Personnel
- Healthcare Facility Administrators or Managers
- Other Hospital / Medical Personnel
- Nursing Personnel
- Medical Examiners
- Coroners
- Law Enforcement
- Clergymen
- Direct Support Professionals
- Emergency Medical Services / Paramedics
- Speech Therapists
- Fire & Rescue Personnel
- Mental Health Professionals
- Employees of Financial Institutions*

*Applies only to OCGA §30-5-4

Georgia law also lists:
- Any employee of public / private agencies engaged in professional health related services to elder persons or disabled adults. [OCGA § 30-5-4]
- Any employee of public / private agencies engaged in professional services to residents or responsible for inspection of long-term care facilities. [OCGA § 31-8-82]

Signs to look for
Abuse: bruises, black eyes, fractures, sprains, dislocations, untreated injuries and conditions, cuts, open wounds, broken eyeglasses, physical signs of restraint, unusual behavioral changes, sexual abuse

Neglect: dehydration, malnutrition, untreated bed sores, poor personal hygiene, hazardous living arrangements, unclean living conditions

Exploitation: sudden changes in banking practices, inclusion of additional names on an adult’s bank signature card, unauthorized withdrawal of funds using the adult’s ATM card, abrupt changes in a will or other financial documents, unexplained disappearance of funds or valuable possessions, unpaid bills, forged signatures, unexplained transfer of assets to a family member or someone outside the family

Immunity
Mandated reporters are immune from any civil or criminal liability on account of their report or testimony or participation in an investigation unless that person acted in bad faith, with a malicious purpose, or was a part to such crime or fraud. [OCGA §31-8-85 & §30-5-4]

Failure to report
It is unlawful for any person or official required to report abuse, neglect, or exploitation to fail knowingly and willingly to make such a report. Any person violating the provisions of the code shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. [OCGA §30-5-8 & §31-5-8]