



**HOPE UNITED**

*Survivor Network*



# SPOTTING THE SIGNS OF ELDER ABUSE

**NORTH CAROLINA LAW PROTECTS DISABLED ADULTS OF ANY AGE FROM ABUSE, NEGLECT AND EXPLOITATION.**

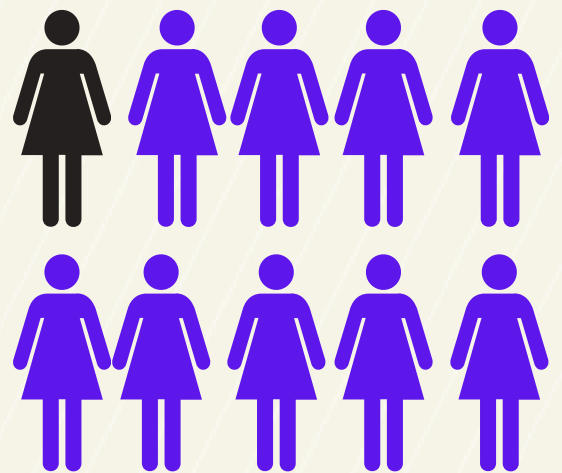
## ELDER ABUSE



Is the willful infliction of physical pain, injury or mental anguish, unreasonable confinement, or the willful deprivation by a caretaker of services necessary to maintain mental and physical health.

## HOW MANY ELDERLY AMERICANS ARE ABUSED?

Approximately 1 in 10 Americans aged 60+ have experienced some form of elder abuse. Some estimates range as high as 5 million elders who are abused each year. One study estimated that only 1 in 14 cases of abuse are reported to authorities.



## ELDER NEGLECT



A disabled adult who is either living alone and not able to provide the services necessary to maintain mental or physical health (self-neglect), or who is not receiving services from their caretaker.

## WHAT MAKES AN OLDER ADULT VULNERABLE TO ABUSE?

Social isolation and mental impairment (such as dementia or Alzheimer's disease) are two factors. Recent studies show that nearly half of those with dementia experienced abuse or neglect. Interpersonal violence also occurs at disproportionately higher rates among adults with disabilities.



## EXPLOITATION

Illegal or improper use of a disabled adult or his resources for another's profit or advantage.

**24-hour Adult Protective Services Hotline:  
704-862-7575**