

Why Should I Care About Elder Abuse?

Abuse of the elderly is a serious issue that regularly occurs throughout the United States, as well as in other countries. Unfortunately, something else that regularly occurs throughout these places is neglect or ignorance of the issue. Many people, although they care about their grandparents, or the fortunate ones who have great-grandparents, they hardly give a thought to other elders. These people think that it's enough to care about their grandparents while they're around, but then when confronted with the issue, they ask themselves: "Why should I care about elder abuse?"

The answer may seem quite simple: because elder abuse can happen to your loved ones and even yourself. People tend to forget that the elderly are almost as defenseless as newborn babies. Like a newborn baby, they aren't as fully aware of what is going on, nor are they capable to protect themselves as well as a middle-aged person. Do people view the horrid issue of child abuse to be equal to elder abuse? Scarcely. Why is this? Their cases run parallel to each other: They are defenseless and people take advantage of that fact, and many of the abuse cases lead to death.

Another reason why we should care about elder abuse is because it is hardly ever the elder's decision to be put into an elderly home. Why should they suffer from their relative's decision? Their last years on earth should not be spent in suffering any more than they already have to in regards to their health issues, if any.

The majority of elders in an elderly home are put in there because of a decision made by their children. Those elders have spent their lives working hard in order to care and protect their children, so why should the action not be reciprocated? There is no reason to be found.

The good news is you can decrease the amount of elder abuse that goes on in the world. Talk about the subject with people – family, friends, neighbors, etc. This will decrease the ignorance factor. Another action you can take to prevent elder abuse is not neglect the issue any longer. Donate time at a local home for the elderly. Also, one mistake that many make is not listening to the elders' cry for help. It may be possible that they aren't saying anything because they are afraid, so ask them about the possibility of them experiencing elder abuse.

If you are still not convinced as to why you should care about elder abuse, a good exercise you can do to change that is putting yourself in their shoes. Imagine yourself placed in an unfamiliar place with unfamiliar faces, with little or no security. Inhibited with health issues, practically defenseless, not knowing if you are going to see another day. Would you like to be in that predicament? Better yet, would you like to spend your last days suffering? This, if you see no other reason, is why you should care about elder abuse.