

Why Should I Care About Elder Abuse?

By Stacy Myers

I would first like to say, Elder Abuse is *very* wrong and it should be stopped. It's just like child abuse in that when adults get old, they do need help and yes they do have moody tendencies. Think about what they did when they were young. One might have been a 17 year old boy forced into the army. Another one might have been born into a rich family but lost it all due to the Depression.

When I see an elderly couple having dinner together, I think of my grandparents who died in 2007. They did so much for me and my family, and they were there my whole life. I was very close to them and know how much love they gave me and encouragement when I was down they always listened to my problems, or fed me till I'd burst. (That's my grandma.) How somebody could hurt a person, let alone an elderly person.

It's horrible to know that there are people out there that enjoy hurting elderly adults. I think these people are very sick and need some help. Physical abuse isn't the only abuse elders receive.

Financial exploitation is where the caregiver or family member that has taken responsibility of them misuses the check or credit cards or even the bank accounts. They may forge the signature of the elder. Some might have a family member who steals their retirement money behind their backs. This could happen where the senior lives at home and the person in charge of taking care of them steals from them.

More than half a million reports of Elder Abuse is recorded and there are so many more that haven't been reported. This happens because elders become more frail and less aware of things around them. Some get Dementia and are very easily taken advantage of. Physical abuse isn't just hitting or shoving. It's causing pain or impairments and or even just confinement, like leaving the elder in a room by themselves for a long period of time when they shouldn't be.

There's also emotional abuse, yelling or threatening the elder by using intimidation or humiliating them in front of people or saying things about them that hurts their feelings. Nonverbal abuse is just plain out ignoring the elder and singling that person out of activities or just not caring what happens to them.

If you take a job to help the elderly, you should want to do this job. You should want to help the elders even though not all things will be pleasant. As their caregiver, they rely on you to help them to do things that they just can't do anymore by themselves. Elders are sweet people. Even if one of them is a little grumpy, all you have to do is just talk to them and get to know them better. People shouldn't have to live their life in fear of Elder Abuse and not being able to stop it because they are too weak.

I think that it's sad to know that so many people have been abused and some aren't even known of yet. If someone did that to my mother or father or my grandparents, I would be so infuriated. And I think more people should realize this and take a hand in helping their family's elderly. Additionally, all people should report suspected abuse to the police.