



Alyssa Groen, LSW
Assistant Project Manager



2011 - Abuse In Later Life Grant
2018 - Continuation Abuse in Later Life Grant





ELDER ABUSE & PREVENTION



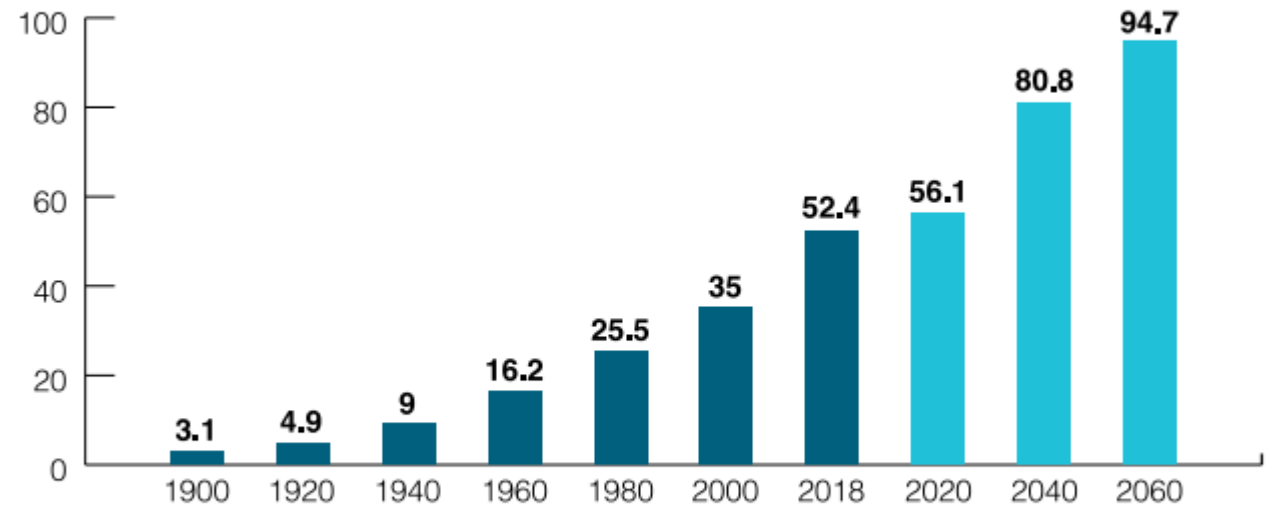
Training Goals:

- Recognize Ageism
- Define Elder Abuse & know the warning signs
- Understand Abuser tactics & Justifications
- Ways to prevent Elder Abuse

Canyon County's estimated population is 243,075 **with 14% of Adults aged 65+ (34,030)**

- In 2019 Population Reference Bureau states :The number of Americans ages 65 and older is **projected to nearly double** from 52 million in 2018 to 95 million by 2060, and the 65-and-older age group's share of the total population will rise from 16 percent to 23 percent.

**Number of Persons Age 65 and Older 1900 to 2060
(numbers in millions)**



Note: Increments in years are uneven. Lighter bars (2020, 2040, and 2060) indicate projections.

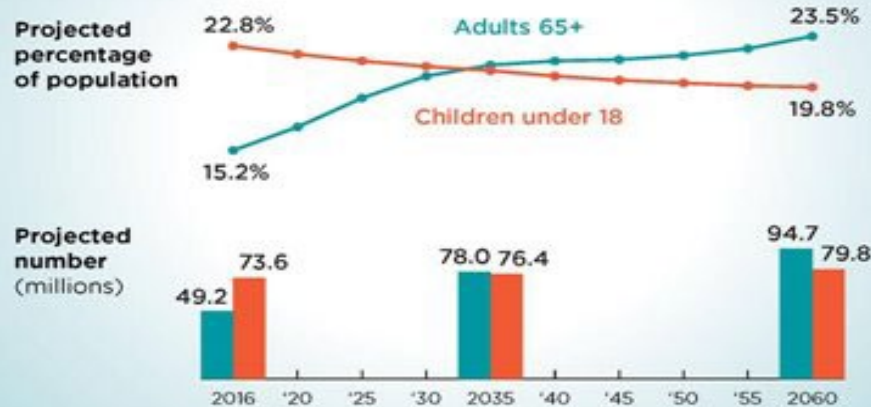
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates and Projections



An Aging Nation

Projected Number of Children
and Older Adults

For the First Time in U.S. History Older Adults Are
Projected to Outnumber Children by 2035



Note: 2016 data are estimates not projections.

United States™
Census
Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
[census.gov](https://www.census.gov)

Source: National Population
Projections, 2017
www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popproj.html

For the first time, in 2034, it is anticipated that older Americans will outnumber children.

Declining rates of fertility and the aging of the baby boom generation are believed to contribute to the increasing ranks of older adults nationwide.



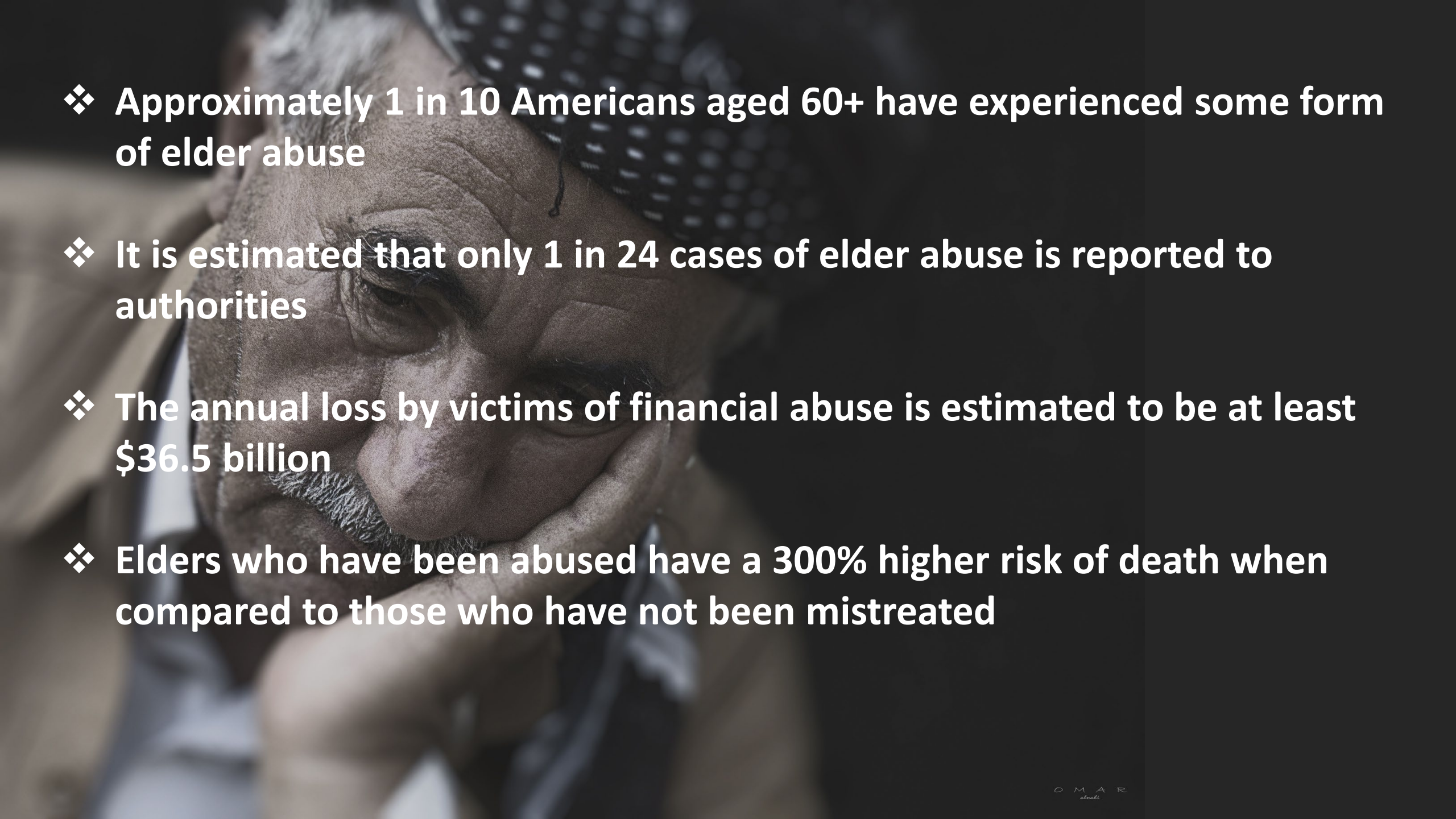
Societal Influences on Aging

According to the World Health Organization, ageism is most rampant in high-income countries, like the United States. Americans as a whole place great value on youth, beauty, vitality and the ability to earn a large income. Aging is, sadly, often seen as a debilitating process that robs people of these high-prized attributes.

Research by Yale School of Public Health found a striking link between ageism in early life and poor health later on. When younger people talk about seniors as “a burden,” make ugly jokes about the physical changes of aging or hold unflattering stereotypes of the worth of older people, they reduce their own chances of healthy aging.

In one study, 70 percent of older Americans said they had been insulted or mistreated because of their age.



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- ❖ Approximately 1 in 10 Americans aged 60+ have experienced some form of elder abuse
 - ❖ It is estimated that only 1 in 24 cases of elder abuse is reported to authorities
 - ❖ The annual loss by victims of financial abuse is estimated to be at least \$36.5 billion
 - ❖ Elders who have been abused have a 300% higher risk of death when compared to those who have not been mistreated

What is Elder Abuse?

Types of Elder Abuse:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional/Psychological
- Neglect
- Financial Exploitation

*Forms of abuse often co-occur

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention defines elder abuse as “An intentional act or failure to act that causes or creates a risk of harm to an older adult.”



Elder abuse affects people in every segment of society, all classes, races, ethnicity, and social backgrounds

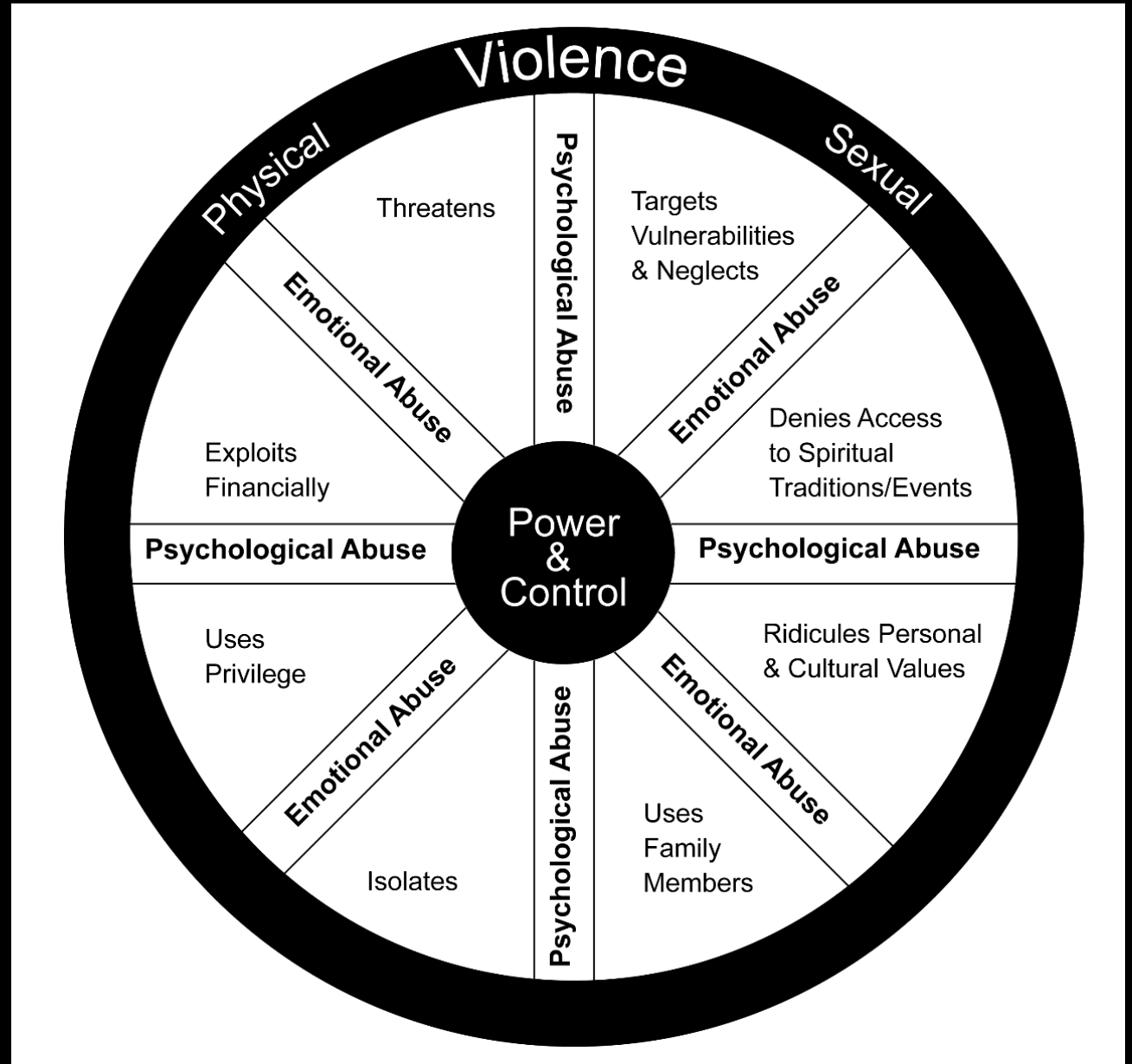
Age: Elder Abuse age can vary from state to state depending on state statutes & laws

Gender: Any gender identity (Most victims of abuse are women, but some are men)

Relationship: Ongoing with expectation of trust (abuse from a stranger is rare)

Likely Targets: older adults who have no family or friends nearby and people with disabilities, memory problems, or dementia who depend on others for help with activities of everyday life.

Abuse in Later Life Power & Control Wheel



Wheel adapted with permission from Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, Duluth, MN in 2006.



Physical Abuse

- ❑ Physical Signs of mistreatment
- ❑ Unexplained injuries
- ❑ Sudden change in an older adult's behavior
- ❑ Caregiver refusal to allow visitors

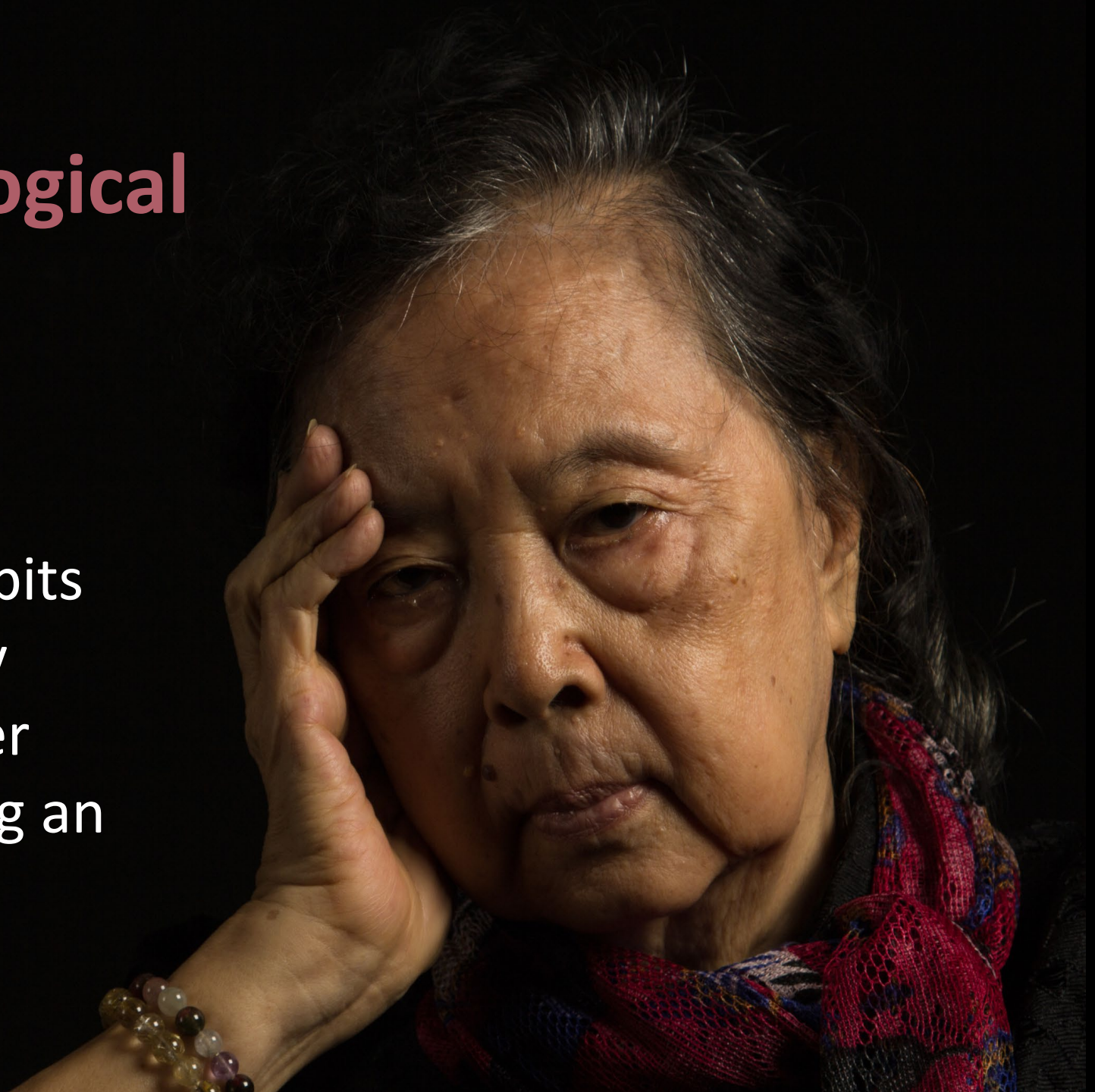


Sexual Abuse

- Physical signs of sexual abuse
- Changes in an older adult's demeanor
- Feelings of shame & guilt

Emotional/Psychological Abuse

- Withdrawn behavior
- Changes in sleeping patterns or eating habits
- Depression or anxiety
- Witnessing a caregiver controlling or isolating an older adult



Neglect

- Dehydration, malnutrition, untreated bed sores, & poor personal hygiene
- Hazardous, unsafe, &/or unsanitary living conditions
- Psychological distress & depression





Financial Exploitation

- Sudden changes in bank accounts, a will, or other financial documents
- Unexplained disappearance of funds or valuable possessions
- Unpaid bills, eviction proceedings
- Depression, anxiety, & sleep disturbances

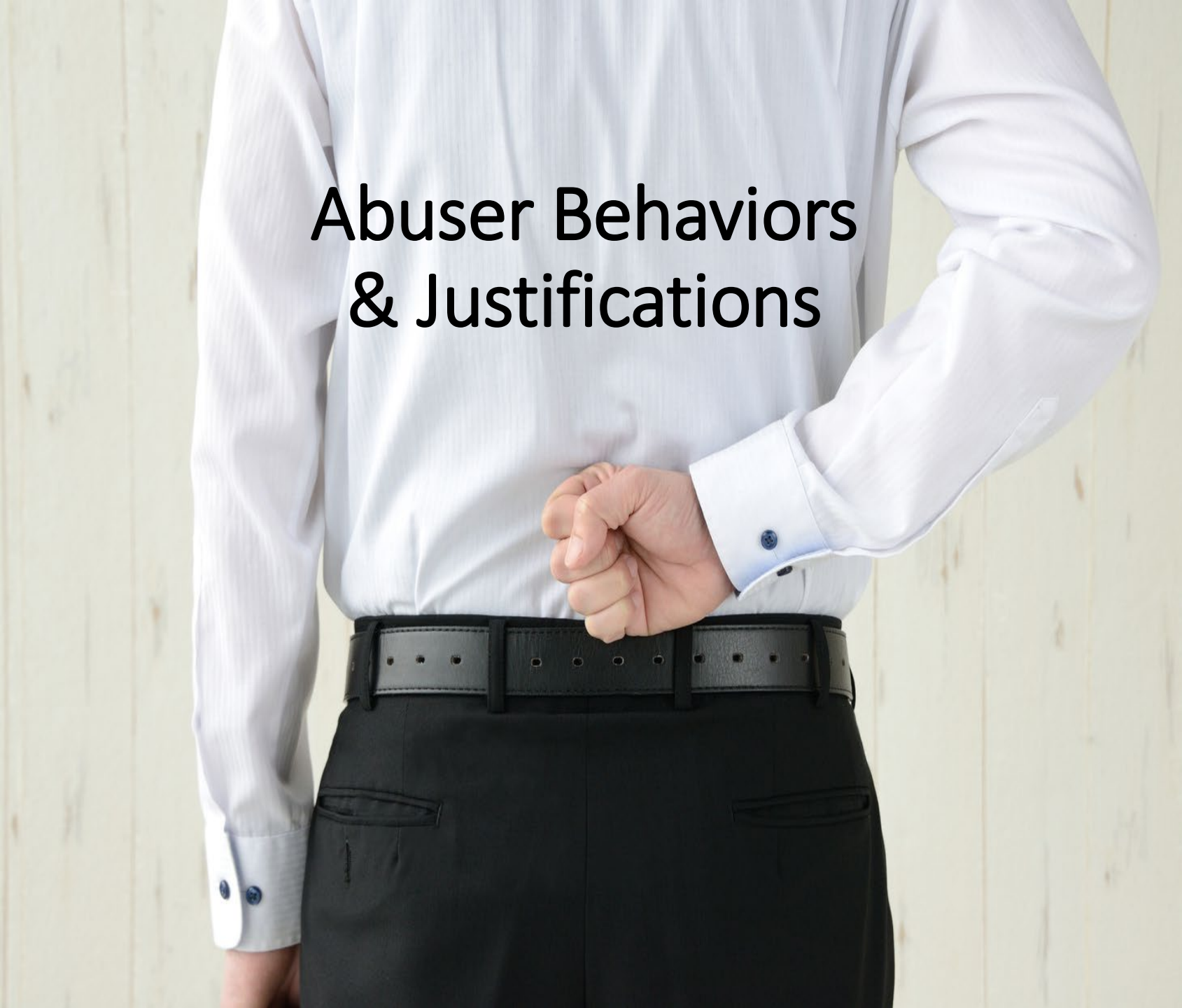
Undue Influence

According to the American Bar Association, Undue influence means “excessive persuasion that causes another person to act or refrain from acting by overcoming that person’s free will and results in inequity.”

To Determine Undue Influence, consider:

- Vulnerability of the victim
- The influencer’s apparent authority
- The actions or tactics used by the influencer.



A person wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and black trousers with a black belt. Their right hand is clenched into a fist and is positioned behind their back. The background is a light-colored wooden wall.

Abuser Behaviors & Justifications

- Lie
- Manipulate
- Charm
- Justify their behavior
 - “I have a problem with my temper.”
 - “I was drunk or high.”
 - “I’m sick. It’s not my fault.”
 - “They are too difficult to care for.”
- Blame the victim and others
 - “They’re clumsy.”
 - “They didn’t do what I wanted.”
 - “They started it.”
 - “They hit me when I was a child.”

Abuse & Caregiver Stress



Everyone experiences stress—most do not abuse an older adult

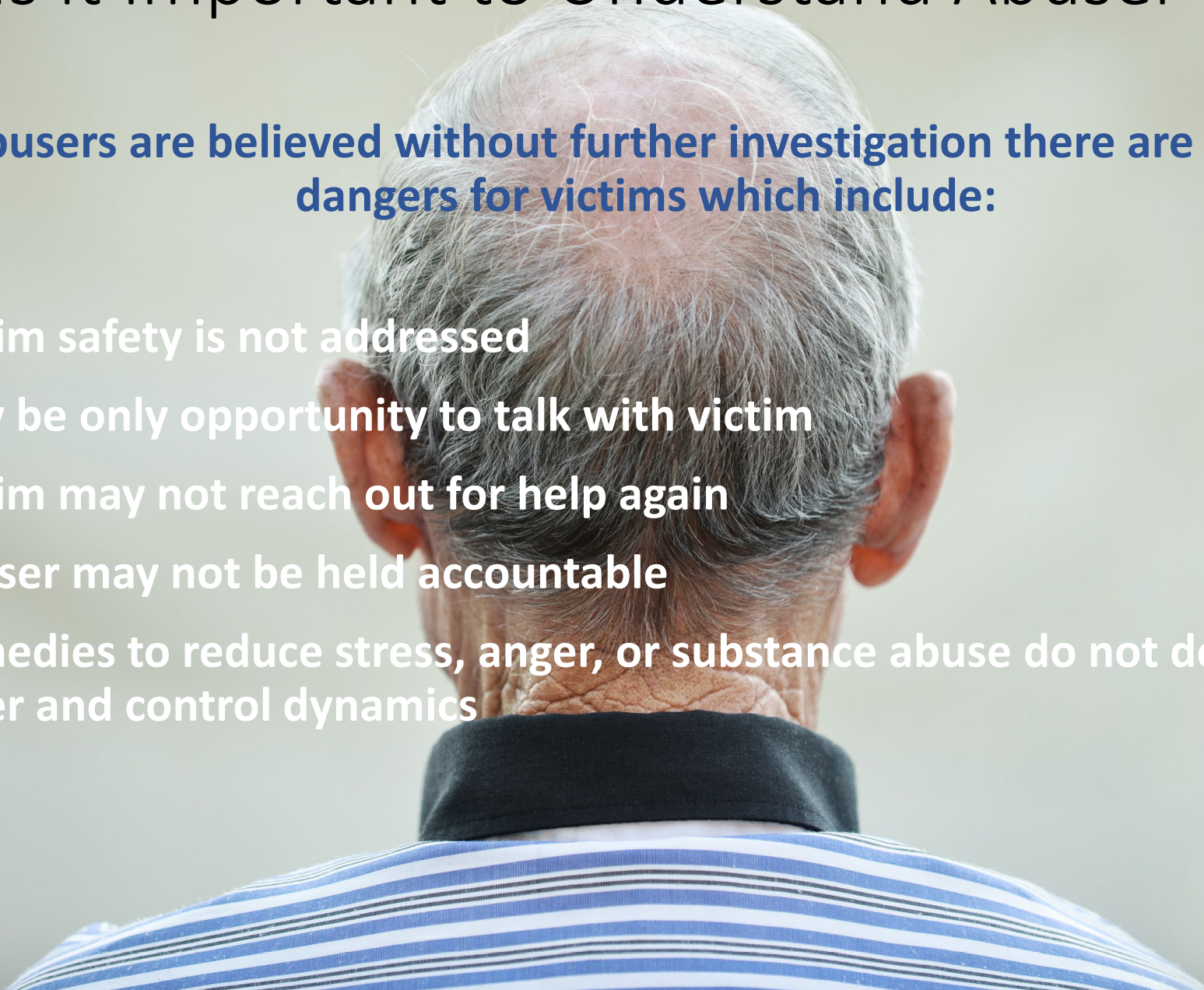
Victim is the target—
not others

Caregiver stress used as
an excuse to
manipulate
professionals and gain
sympathy

Why Is it Important to Understand Abuser Tactics?

If abusers are believed without further investigation there are possible dangers for victims which include:

- ☐ Victim safety is not addressed
- ☐ May be only opportunity to talk with victim
- ☐ Victim may not reach out for help again
- ☐ Abuser may not be held accountable
- ☐ Remedies to reduce stress, anger, or substance abuse do not deal with power and control dynamics





Reasons Older Victims Stay: Internal Personal Values

Love for an adult child; not wanting to see a child go to prison or live on the streets

Family values and commitment to spouse/partner and children

Belief that the perpetrator will change

Belief that it may be safer for a victim to remain with the abuser than to leave

Belief that if the abuser receives help the abuse will end



Reasons Older Victims Stay: Abuser Tactics

Threatening

Threatening violence if victim leaves

Threatening suicide and/or homicide

Blaming

Blaming the victim and using guilt and justification to get the victim to stay

Manipulating

Manipulating the victim to believe they cannot make it on their own

Isolating

Isolating the victim from family, friends, and others



Reasons Older Victims Stay: Societal Influences

- Lack of affordable housing options
- Lack of system response and collaboration
- Isolation of seniors in our society
- Racism, ageism, and sexism
- Limited financial options
- Lack of options for help for perpetrator



ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION

Victim-Centered Approach

- ☐ Look at strengths & natural supports
- ☐ Respect victim confidentiality & privacy
- ☐ Keep focused on victim safety & offender accountability
- ☐ Avoid assumptions about what is best for the victim
- ☐ Take direction from the victim
- ☐ Work collaboratively to overcome barriers & obstacles





Tips For Working With Older Victims

Understand

Understand – these are difficult decisions

Respect

Respect – these are the victim's decisions

Support

Support – it can be easy to fall into the trap of blaming the victim

Expect

Expect – victims may want contact with family and/or partners

Recognize

Recognize – making major life changes takes time and is a process

Collaborate

Collaborate – working with other professionals can help our understanding of victim choices



What You Can Do:

Listen: to older adults to understand their challenges and provide support.

Report: abuse or suspected abuse to local adult protective services, long-term care ombudsman, and the police.

Educate: oneself and others about how to recognize and report elder abuse.

Refer: to an elder Multidisciplinary Team



What You Can Do:

Check-in: on older adults who may have few friends and family members.

Engage: elders in our communities, churches, agencies, organizations, etc.

Plan: later in life preferences by talking with older adults about their future & what they want it to look like.

COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAM

- *Improving Policies, Procedures, & Best Practices*
- *Education & Outreach*
- *Leveraging Resources & Reducing Duplication of Services*
- *Increasing Victim Safety*
- *Holding Offenders Accountable*

It is a team of professionals who identify current systems' responses and service gaps for older victims and coordinate members' efforts in order to create a seamless response to the needs of victims of abuse in later life in our community.

CCMDT:

Canyon County Multidisciplinary Team is a group of dedicated professionals who come together monthly to review complex elder abuse cases

GOAL:

Improve outcomes, including safety and security for elders and increase accountability for offenders

HOW TO REFER:

Call the Nampa Family Justice Center
& ask to speak to an Elder Advocate
208.475.5700





Raise Awareness: June 15 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Alyssa Groen, LSW
Assistant Project Manager
groena@cityofnampa.us

Nampa Family Justice Center
1305 Third St. S.
Nampa, ID 83651
208.475.5721 *phone*
208.475.5710 *fax*

