

ABUSE IN LTC

What *YOU* need to know

- Approximately one in six people 60 years and older experienced some form of abuse in community settings during the past year.
- Rates of abuse of older people are high in long-term care homes, with two in three staff reporting that they have suspected abuse in the past year.



- Rates of abuse of older people have increased during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Abuse of older people can lead to serious physical injuries and long-term psychological consequences.
- Abuse of older people is predicted to increase as many countries are experiencing rapidly ageing populations.

Types of Abuse

- ❖ **Physical abuse**- someone causes bodily harm by hitting, pushing, or slapping. This may also include restraining an older adult against their will, such as locking them in a room or tying them to furniture.
- ❖ **Emotional abuse/psychological abuse**- can include saying hurtful words, yelling, threatening, scolding or repeatedly ignoring the older adult. Keeping that person from seeing close friends and relatives is another form of emotional abuse.
- ❖ **Neglect**- occurs when someone does not try to respond to the older adult's needs. This may include physical, emotional, and social needs, or withholding food, medications, or access to health care.
- ❖ **Infantilization**- when an adult is being treated or spoken to like a child or baby.
- ❖ **Sexual abuse**- involves an aggressor forcing an older adult to watch or be part of sexual acts.
- ❖ **Financial abuse**- when money or belongings are stolen from an older adult. It can include forging checks, taking someone's savings, or using a person's credit cards and bank accounts without their permission. It also includes changing names on accounts, policies or titles without permission.
- ❖ **Abandonment**- leaving an older adult who needs help alone without planning for his or her care.

Signs of Abuse

Victims of abuse may show signs of...

- depression, fear, withdrawal, anxiety or passivity
- unexplained or new fear of family members, friends or caregivers
- unexplained physical injuries
- malnutrition or dehydration
- changes in personal hygiene and grooming
- untreated pressure sores or abrasions
- over-sedation

Financial abuse signs may include...

- money or valuable personal items missing without explanation
- going without food, clothing or other necessities that the older person should be able to afford
- unexplained lack of cash on hand
- failure to pay rent or bills on time
- sale or transfer of the older person's property without the older person's knowledge or understanding
- unexplained withdrawals from financial institutions
- unusual changes to documents such as a power of attorney or Will
- prepared or executed documents and agreements involving the older person that they don't understand or are not aware of
- lack of independent advice concerning questionable financial decisions

What Can You Do?

Family, Friends, Visitors, & Caregivers need to remember that ***Resident Abuse is NOT RIGHT! Abuse of any kind is not tolerated.***

DO THESE THREE THINGS:

1. SEE IT:

Recognize the signs of abuse.

“Is this a sign of abuse?”

2. NAME IT:

Talk to the victim & validate the signs they have.

“That looks/ sounds like abuse.”

3. CHECK IT:

Ask yourself what you can do and report it.

“Is it abuse? What can I do to help?”

Who Can Help?

- Emergency 9-1-1
- Local RCMP
- Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism
Phone: (306) 359-9956
Toll free 1-888-823-2211
- Seniors Information Line
Toll free: 1-888-823-2211
- Public Guardian and Trustee
Phone: 306-787-5424
Toll Free: 1-877-787-5424
- Long- Term Care Homes’ Manager or Nurse- in- Charge
- Quality Care Coordinators in the network



Saskatchewan Human Rights
Commission:

Saskatoon Office

Phone: 306-933-5952

Toll Free: 1-800-667-9249

Regina Office

Phone: 306-787-2530

Toll Free: 1-800-667-8577

**TOGETHER WE CAN
STOP RESIDENT ABUSE.**

**THERE IS NO EXCUSE
FOR RESIDENT ABUSE!**

Credits: World Health Organizations, National
Institute of Aging, Public Legal Education
Association of Saskatchewan, Peck Law
Group

This handout was developed by the
Saskatchewan Health Authority
Clinical Integration, Continuing Care



ALLEGATION/SUSPICION OF RESIDENT ABUSE
REPORTING FORM
CONFIDENTIAL

Name of Home:	
Resident's Name:	
Age:	Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy):
Reasons for this Report (check applicable box)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Suspicion of Abuse	<input type="checkbox"/> Resident Disclosure
<input type="checkbox"/> Allegation of Abuse by Staff/ Volunteer	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify)
Name of Reporter:	Date Form Completed (mm/dd/yyyy):

1. Describe incident, situation, statement or behavioral and/or physical indications of abuse:
(Who, What, Where, When, How)

2. If explanation was offered, give details, including what was said and when:

3. If other staff were involved, give details, including what was said or when:

4. Area(s) on resident's body showing indicators of abuse:

5. Other comments or observations?

Reported to (check applicable box):	<input type="checkbox"/>	Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nurse-in-charge	Name:
Date Reported (mm/dd/yyyy):					Time Reported:

To be completed by the Manager as part of investigation has been completed.

Outcome/Conclusion/Investigation:

Escalated to (check applicable box):	<input type="checkbox"/> Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Risk Management	Name:
Date Reported (mm/dd/yyyy):			Time Reported:




As a staff member/volunteer:

- I have read the **Resident Abuse Package**
- I understand that I am responsible to report all evidence of Abuse or suspicion of Abuse of a resident and that failure to report evidence or suspicion of Abuse of a resident shall be cause for disciplinary action.
- I understand my responsibility and the actions required by me.

Name: <i>(Please Print)</i>	
Home:	
Position:	
Signature:	Date: <i>(mm/dd/yyyy)</i>

Note: This form is to be retained in the employee's personnel file as per site procedure.

 <p>Saskatchewan Health Authority</p>	<p>Title: Suspected Abuse in LTC- Reporting, Documentation, Investigation Process. Role performing Activity: All Involved Departments</p>	
<h1>WORK STANDARD</h1>	<p>Location: LTC SHA</p>	<p>Department/Unit: All Departments</p>
	<p>Document Owner: Clinical Integration, Continuing Care</p>	<p>Date Prepared: July 4, 2022</p>
	<p>Last Revision:</p>	<p>Date Approved: September 19, 2022</p>
	<p>Related Policies/Documentation Resident Abuse Package Saskatchewan Critical Incident Reporting Guideline Disclosure of Patient Safety Incidents</p>	

Work Standard Summary: To provide staff in LTC with necessary education to prevent and effectively respond to resident abuse.

Essential Tasks:	
1.	Staff become aware of an indication or suspicion of resident abuse.
3.	Report findings, observations, and allegations of resident abuse to the Manager, Nurse-in-Charge, or Administrator immediately. In-person reporting is most appropriate if a resident abuse is suspected.
4.	If the Manager, Nurse-in-Charge, or Administrator is not available, contact and report to the Area Director.
5.	Complete the Allegations/ Suspicion of Resident Abuse Form and the Internal Reporting form. Submit it to the Manager, Nurse-in-Charge, or Administrator.
7.	<p>**NOTE: Do not document any allegations of abuse on the resident's chart. The Manager, Nurse-in-Charge, or Administrator will determine what is to be charted. If physical abuse is suspected, objective findings or observations are to be charted only. Example: A reddened area noted around resident's Left forearm.</p>
8.	<p>If an investigation is necessary, the Manager will notify the involved parties and remind them that they must be compliant with the process.</p> <p>**NOTE: It is the responsibility of all the involved parties to keep the issue confidential.</p>
9.	Manager to disclose all findings according to the SHA disclosure guidelines.