Effective Communication with Law Enforcement in the Prevention of Elder Abuse

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About Us
The Elder Abuse Guide for Law Enforcement

• Background
• Learning Objectives
• Site Tour
• Types of Elder Abuse, quick reference
To improve the national response to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation by gathering, housing, disseminating, and stimulating innovative, validated methods of practice, education, research, and policy.
Social Isolation - A Major Factor in the Cause of EA

Occurs in many ways:
- Loss of visual cues
  - *Ex-Macular Degeneration*
- Loss of auditory cues
  - *Can you hear me now?*
- Limitations with Mobility
  - Wheelchairs/walkers
  - Loss of drivers license
While physical distancing has been the norm, we need to be prepared to be of continuous support in many ways.

- Developing safe communication pathways
  - Encourage the use of Elder Care Locator
  - Established Friendly visitor programs
  - Prepare clear concise information

- Promoting creditable resources
  - Helpful resources will be provided
RESPONSE CONCERNS: APS

- Challenges of balancing the protection of the health of APS staff with responding to needs of their clients who may be in an abusive situation

- The constant need for personal protective equipment (PPE); possible shortages

- Altered timeframes for initiating cases

- Conducting face-to-face visits with alleged victims or other collaterals (range of policy responses in notes)
RESPONSE CONCERNS: LONG TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN

• Increased responsibilities to ensure that facilities comply with State issued orders

• Appropriate notification of confirmed or suspected cases of COVID19

• Posting of presence of any such cases at entrance

• Availability of adequate PPE and testing

• Extensive care: staffing levels of at least 4.1 hours per resident per day
CHALLENGES PROSECUTORS FACE

• Jury trials on hold in many jurisdictions

• Meeting with colleagues and witnesses virtually

• Many newly filed cases of elder abuse are not being heard for several months; as a result there are issues with victim availability and ability to recall events accurately

• Inevitable backlog of cases

• Future budgets of state prosecutor offices will be impacted – reducing opportunities for hiring and promotion
CHALLENGES LAW ENFORCEMENT FACE

• Being first responders – face-to-face
  – Gathering and reviewing documents and evidence, in meeting with and assessing the credibility of witnesses

• Responding to a spike in fraud and deception cases surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic

• Dealing with staff shortages
  – April: almost 20% of the NYPD uniformed staff were sick

• Restrictions on access to judges for signing warrants

• General lowering of morale because of recent events
Polling Question:
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Why do you think law enforcement is reluctant to get involved with cases of elder abuse?

• (A) Perceive these cases as civil matters
• (B) Trouble identifying elder abuse signs and appropriate actions
• (C) Difficultly interviewing an older adult with dementia
• (D) All of the above
Introducing EAGLE: A tool for professionals encountering cases of Elder Abuse

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Types of Elder Abuse

PHYSICAL

PSYCHOLOGICAL

FINANCIAL

SEXUAL

NEGLECT

Multiple forms of abuse can occur at once.
Background
The Elder Abuse Guide for Law Enforcement

Development
EAGLE is a FREE tool that helps officers effectively identify and investigate potential elder abuse cases

- Funded by the Department of Justice and developed by elder abuse experts at the University of Southern California
- EAGLE was also cross tested by law enforcement departments across the country
- EAGLE is for everyone! Feel free to access and use at will  http://eagle.trea.usc.edu/

EAGLE Tools and Capabilities
In addition to quick reference educational information on various forms of elder abuse, EAGLE also provides:

- Assistance in documenting a case for prosecution
- ZIP-code-based community resources locator
- State-by-state penal codes relating to elder abuse
Quick reference with definitions, signs, red flags, and actions for all forms of elder abuse

State specific elder abuse statues, charging information, consumer protection statutes and state mandated reporting

Printable and digital checklist detailing what needs to be collected on scene for a successful prosecution

Contact information for organizations such as Adult Protective Services (APS)

Sign up for the EAGLE newsletter and receive alerts when new information is posted to the website
Financial Elder Abuse

Financial Elder Abuse Is...

**ABOUT**

Using an older adult's money or assets (pension, home, social security checks) contrary to their wishes, needs or best interests, or for the abuser's personal gain.

Undue influence is when a person of trust manipulates and takes advantage of a vulnerable elder to gain control of money, property or life—either directly or through power of attorney, trust, marriage, adoption, or inheritance.

**SIGNS**

**QUESTIONS**

**ACTIONS**

© Previous: Emotional Elder Abuse

Next: Elder Neglect ©
Roll Call Training Videos
The Elder Abuse Guide for Law Enforcement

Watch the below Roll Call Video, Understanding Elder Abuse
Pin EAGLE to your Mobile

1. Visit EAGLE on your mobile at eagle.usc.edu
2. Select the black hamburger button in the top right, this will populate the drop down menu
3. Once you have the drop down menu, select “Add to Mobile Home Screen”
Community Policing
APS and Law Enforcement

Elder Abuse: Neglect
EAGLE’s Reach

Within the last year EAGLE has reached law enforcement throughout the country:

- Website
  - Offers 25+ FREE tools and resources for LE
  - Over 24k webpage views
  - 100% of US states used EAGLE
  - 16% returning visitor rate
  - 84% new visitor rate

- E-Newsletter
  - Join the community and subscribe today by visiting: www.eagle.usc.edu
    - OR email eaglehelp@usc.edu
Smaller Police Departments

Through a small sample of 19 police departments within California, it was found that 79% of ‘rural’ departments had less than 100 department personnel and less funding in comparison to metropolitan police departments, such as LAPD which has over 14K Officers and a $1.1 Billion annual budget for training.
Elder Abuse Training Opportunities

In-person Training
Fill out an application on the EAGLE Website:
• bit.ly/EAGLETraining

Virtual Training Opportunities
• Self-guided Virtual Training:
  bit.ly/EAGLE_NW3C
• Guided Virtual Training:
  bit.ly/EAGLETraining
We want to hear from you! eaglehelp@usc.edu

You may also contact us at
National Center on Elder Abuse NCEA
1-855-500-3537 (ELDR)
ncea-info@aoa.hhs.gov
https://ncea.acl.gov/

USC Center on Elder Mistreatment website:
http://eldermistreatment.usc.edu/ OR
www.trea.usc.edu

We also thought you might like to use-STEAP....
National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA), in partnership with the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), launched the STEAP (Supports and Tools for Elder Abuse Prevention) Initiative in an effort to educate and empower communities to create a sturdy structure of support to notice, report, and prevent elder abuse.

The centerpiece of this Initiative is a toolkit with practical and customizable elder abuse education and outreach tools.

Download and customize the toolkit at nceausc.tk/STEAP
NEW! FREE and ready-to-use materials to engage and educate your community about the role everyone can play in preventing elder abuse.
Customizable & ready-to-use outreach tools
nceausc.tk/STEAP

Fact sheets and brochure

Presentation template & evaluation form

Outreach calendar for year-round elder abuse prevention programming

STEAP Initiative Outreach Calendar 2019

Building Community Supports to Prevent Elder Abuse

Outreach calendar for year-round elder abuse prevention programming
Customizable & ready-to-use outreach tools
nceausc.tk/STEAP

Add your own logo, contact information, and local elder abuse reporting numbers.

Instructions:
nceausc.tk/STEAPCI

Contact us at 1-855-500-3537 or ncea-info@aoa.hhs.gov for questions or assistance.
Polling Question:
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Do you think that EAGLE will be helpful to you when developing an elder abuse case?

- (A) Strongly Agree
- (B) Agree
- (C) Undecided
- (D) Disagree
- (E) Strongly Disagree
Thank You.

EAGLE Help
email: eaglehelp@usc.edu
website: www.eagle.usc.edu

National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA)
1-855-500-3537 (ELDR)
ncea-info@aoa.hhs.gov
https://ncea.acl.gov/