



KERN COUNTY ELDER NEWS

Kern County DEAR/EDRT TEAM

(Dependent/Elder Abuse Review) Team/EDRT (Elder Death Review Team)



Monthly Information Article

June 2023

Elder Abuse Awareness Month



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Kern County Aging & Adult Services



Agency Partners

Bakersfield Police Department

California Dept. of Insurance

CSUB

Dept. of Social Services Licensing

GBLA

Independent Living Center of KC

Kaiser Permanente

Kern Co. Aging & Adult Services

Kern Co. BHRS

Kern Co. Coroner

Kern Co. District Attorney

Kern Co. DA Victim Services

Kern Co. Family Law Facilitator

Kern Co. Public Health

Kern Regional Center

Kern Co. Sheriff's Office

Kern Co. Veteran Services

Social Security Administration

Strata Credit Union

Close your eyes and picture your grandmother with unexplained bruises on her body, or your elderly neighbors losing their house and everything they worked so hard for their whole lives. Elder abuse is real and affects real people regardless of where they live, the color of one's skin, educational level, or how much money one does or does not have. Elder abuse has no boundaries and can, and does, devastate entire families. It is everyone's responsibility to protect our elderly from abuse and seek justice for those who have been wronged.

Elder and dependent adult abuse oftentimes goes unnoticed. Elder abuse can be a silent killer. To bring light to this subject, June has been declared Elder Abuse Awareness Month and on June 15, 2023, Kern County Adult Protective Services will be holding their 24th Annual Elder Abuse Conference.

Abuse of older people can have serious physical and mental health, financial, and social consequences, including, for instance, physical injuries, premature mortality, depression, cognitive decline, displacement from one's home and financial loss among other things.

Adult Protective Services (APS) investigates elder and dependent adult abuse. As of January 1, 2022, APS' definition of "elder" was expanded to include those persons aged 60 and older (previously 65 and older). According to Justice in Aging, as of March 2023, approximately 20% of Californians are age 60 or older and it is predicted that by 2030, older adults will make up one-quarter of California's population. In Kern County, there are approximately 141,000 folks that are aged 60 or older.

Elder abuse falls into two basic categories- abuse by others and self-neglect. Within each of these categories, there are several types of abuse.

Abuse by others includes:

- ◆ Physical (e.g. assault/battery, constraint or deprivation, chemical restraint, over/under medication)
- ◆ Sexual
- ◆ Financial
- ◆ Neglect (including deprivation of goods and services by a care custodian)
- ◆ Abandonment
- ◆ Isolation
- ◆ Abduction
- ◆ Psychological/Mental
- ◆ Other



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Self-neglect includes:

- ♦ Neglect of Physical Care (e.g. personal hygiene, food, clothing, malnutrition/dehydration)
- ♦ Self-Neglect of Residence (unsafe environment)
- ♦ Financial Self-Neglect (e.g. inability to manage one's own personal finances)

To report elder or dependent adult abuse:

- ♦ Call Toll Free 24 hours a day (800) 277-7866
- ♦ Or (661) 868-1006
- ♦ Or submit your concerns online by going to:

kerncounty.com/government/aging-adult-services



To report incidents of abuse that occur in licensed facilities please contact the Long Term Care Ombudsman:

24 Hour Crisis Line (800) 231-4024 OR (661) 323-7884



Join us in the fight to stop elder abuse!

Registration is still being accepted through June 9, 2023, for the

24th Annual Elder Abuse Conference
June 15, 2023

The cost is \$40.00 per person which includes lunch, raffles, and great speakers!

