FIELD; BIOLOGY-ECOLOGY

METHODS OF REPORTING A NURSING HOME ABUSE

**Call a nursing home abuse hotline ;** there are two main source to report the elder abuse in nursing home. These include the national center on elderly abuse (NCEA) and the elder care locator.

The NCEA is a national resource center dedicated to preventing elderly mistreatment. The website for NCEA gives contact information for reporting nursing home abuse in each state. It also provides information on state agencies devoted to elderly as well as low and regulations.

The elderly locator provides similar resource ,including details of local support group for protecting the elderly.

Either of these website can contribute a wealth of information for family members or friends seeking to ensure that their loved ones get the appropriate care they need in a safe environment.

**Reach out an ombudsman ;** an ombudsman acts as an advocate for residents in nursing home. They are trained to resolve problems in the long term care industry and to protect the right of the elderly.

They also assist in filling complaints but they will keep the matters confidential unless u give them an express permission to share them.

These are some of the functions of an ombudsman

*Addressing resident complaint.*

*Addressing violation of rights or dignity.*

*Reconciling issues related to poor quality care.*

*Educating elderly people about their rights .*

*Offering information on making changes to find high quality care.*

**Contact your state or local adult protective services ;** one should contact adult protective services to inform them about the abuse.

**Local law enforcement ;** if an elderly person in a nursing home or long term care facility has been seriously hurt or died as a result of any types of abuse in a nursing home , local law enforcement should be contacted immediately.

Officers can come to the incident site and perfume an investigation to determine whether a crime has been committed . if they believe a crime has occurred, the office may file changes against the perpetrators for one more crimes such as assaults, homicide, manslaughter ,abuse or sexual of financial coercion.

**Work with health care providers to report abuse ;** if u aren’t sure that an elderly person is being abused but you suspect that that may be the case you can ask help from a trusted doctor or nurse . medical professionals are trained to identify the difference between the normal side effects of aging and elderly abuse.

Common side effects or sighs of abuse can include any of the following

*Documented but untreated injury.*

*Undocumented injury or fractures*

*Pressure sores.*

*Poor oral care or luck of cleanliness.*

*Malnourished residents with no previous record of low weight.*

*Bruising in abnormal locations.*

*Unchanged liners.*

*Strong odors or urine or feces.*

*Trash cans that haven’t been emptied.*

*A history of report of abuse in the facility.*

**REPORTING TYPES AND SIGNS OF NURSING HOME ABUSE**

There are six different types of elderly abuse, these include physical abuse, emotional abuse ,sexual abuse, financial abuse , abandonment and neglect.

Understanding each type of abuse can go a long way to recognize when it occurs and stopping it from recurring.

**Physical abuse**

Physical abuse occurs where there is use of violence or force against an elderly person in an attempt to cause harm.

Physical abuse may occur due to an abusers mental health or substance abuse problem or if a care taker is particularly stressed or frustrated with their role.an elderly who have dementia are prone to become agitated and these may lead them to strike the caregiver and in some cases the care giver may strike back

Signs that physical abuse has occurred include injuries such as fractures , lacerations , bruising and organ damage. Due to fragility of an elderly person these injury may be much more threatening than they would be to a young person. For example a cut to an elderly person may require stitches where it may require a bandage to a younger person. Sprains and fractures to the limbs are particularly dangerous since they may cause the victim to become immobile without the assistance of a wheelchair or other apparatus.

**Emotional abuse**

While emotional abuse may not show visible scarring on the body it can be traumatic to the elderly victim. Example to psychological abuse include attempt to intimidate or belittle an elderly person with words or actions. These can include verbal abuse , threats, isolation, or limiting choices so that they may no longer act independent.

Abuse may be driven by mental illness or substance abuse by caretaker. Other time a caretaker may have longstanding patterns in their lives that lead to psychological abuse rather than handling problems.

Indicator that an elderly person may be experiencing psychological abuse include : changes in eating patters ,difficulty in short term memory ,difficulty in sleeping ,withdrawal or isolation, less attention to self- care, frequent sickness or low energy

If see these changes in the normal behavioral pattern of your loved ones , its important to reach out for assistance immediately.

**Financial abuse**

Financial abuse occurs when someone takes money or property from an elderly individual without their knowledge or content. Since many elderly victims may not have all of their cognitive abilities , they can be easy prey for theft.

Common schemes involves taking money or credit cards, obtaining property through means of control such as identity theft, or using coercion to change a will or entire into a financial transaction that the elderly person does not understand.

Typically , financial abusers see the opportunity to take advantage of someone and act on it.

**Sexually abuse**

these is where the elderly are sexually assaulted . when an elderly person is forced to perform sex with out his will one need to report the case.

When someone is sexually abuse his/her self esteem is lowered and becomes less confident about himself.

When one is sexually become traumatized and isolate themselfs because he thinks that when people will know they will lough at him. One should have a close person to talk to about the abuse so u should also be close with the patient.

**WHAT TO DO AFTER REPORTING A NURSING HOME ABUSE**

If u have filled a report for a nursing home abuse , make sure too document all items in your report. These can include types of abuse , evidence seen, and the names of individuals suspected of engaging in the abuse .

Next consult an attorney to determine whether the nursing home or long term care facility may be liable for abuse or wrongful death.

Long term facilities may be responsible if they are understaffed ,have engaged in negligent hiring practices ,make medication errors, or provide adequate staff training , staff and contractors may be held responsible for international harm or neglect.

If u suspect abandonment or other forms of nursing home abuse ,reach out required people.

**PROCEDURES OF REPORTING NURSING HOME ABUSE**

**Contact the nursing home administration;** if u suspect that your loved ones is being mistreated or neglected the first step is to contact the nursing home administration , explain your concern and ask them to investigate the situation.

**Contact the authorities ;** if you believe that your loved ones is in immediate danger contact the police or emergency service right away u can also contact our long term ombudsman or file a report with your state department of public health.

**Gather evidence ;**if you suspect that your loved ones is being abused or neglected , it is important to gather as much evidence as possible .take phots of any injuries or bruises , keep a journal of any incident and talk to other resident and staff members.

**Contact an attorney ;** if u believe that your beloved has been a victim of nursing home abuse, it is important to contact an experienced attorney who can help you understand your legal rights and options.

**Stay involved ;** even after u have reported a nursing home abuse, it is important to stay involved in your loved ones care .visit them regularly , ask them questions and keep an eye out for any sighs of abuse or neglect.

**Other ways can be**

**The witnessing employee:** immediately notifies their supervisor in person or by phone

**Mandated reporters:** should then follow the procedures for reporting to external agencies based on the status of the patient.

**Supervisor:** immediately notifies the head of the clinical area where the alleged incident occurred .

**Head of clinical area:** will notify the appropriate representative from clinical leadership.

**Clinical leadership:** representative who receives a report of an allegation of abuse or neglect shall immediately review the incident details and convene the abuse and neglect .

***IN URGENT SITUATIONS***

In circumstances where an abuse or neglect event is **actively occurring** during the patients encounter at any health center then the first priority is to ensure the patients safety .

The reporter should immediately notify the supervisor of the clinical area in which the suspected abuse or neglect is occurring.

They should also contact the police if there is concern for immediate physical harm, including physical harm.