

Neglect

Neglect is when a caregiver does not fulfill their commitment to providing for the physical, emotional, and social needs of an older person they are providing care to. The caregiver may be a paid professional, a family member, neighbor, friend, or other unpaid person caring for an older adult.

Neglect may include a caregiver failing to provide:

- adequate food and water, leading to malnutrition and dehydration;
- sufficient care, such as health care, medications, bathing, dressing, toileting, and changing bandages;
- supervision to ensure safety;
- disregarding a person's financial obligations such as failing to pay rent or mortgage, medical expenses, bills, or property taxes;
- appropriate care when away from the older person; or
- sanitary and safe living conditions.

We all have a responsibility for preventing and addressing neglect. If you are experiencing neglect, the resources below can help you. If you are not experiencing neglect, learning more about it can help you identify family, friends, or others who may be experiencing it and sharing resources to help them.

Signs of neglect may include:

- dehydration or malnourishment;
- untreated bedsores or other medical problems;
- unsanitary or unsafe household conditions;
- a housing eviction notice for unpaid rent;
- an older person seeming uncomfortable or anxious in the presence of certain people;
- being reluctant to speak about the situation; or
- an older person's report that neglect has occurred.

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Prevent neglect from happening by:

- accessing caregiver resources, such as respite care or caregiver support groups;
- utilizing community resources, such as home delivered meals and senior centers; and,
- asking family and friends to help share in the physical, emotional, and social care needs of an older person.

Do not stay silent!

Neglect is not fate, and it is okay to ask for help. Everyone has a right to be safe! Learn the signs of abuse. Prevent social isolation by supporting community centers, public transit and empowering older people.

In case of emergency, call 911

Programs, such as Adult Protective Services (APS) and The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program are here to help. Don't be afraid! Talk with a professional you trust from to help you make a report or access more information.

Learn more!

To learn more, visit the National Center on Elder Abuse website at:
<https://ncea.acl.gov/FAQ.aspx>

WHO TO CONTACT FOR HELP?

Community Based Organization:

Adult Protective Services:

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program:

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