

# ELDER ADVOCACY PROGRAM

## COURT REFERRALS

### CRITERIA:

Older adult 55+  
Resident of Chautauqua or Cattaraugus County  
Suspected of being a victim of elder abuse

- 1 Provide the older adult with the Elder Advocacy Program (EAP) informational materials.
- 2 Email Amanda Chase, [achase@elderjusticenyny.org](mailto:achase@elderjusticenyny.org), to indicate that a referral has been made. Identifying information can be provided if appropriate.

<u>TYPES OF ELDER ABUSE</u>	<u>WARNING SIGNS</u>
<b>Physical Abuse</b> The non-accidental use of force that results in bodily injury, pain or impairment.	Inadequately explained injuries; Failure to take medication as prescribed or report of drug overdose; Indications of being restrained; Refusal by caregiver to allow older adult to be interviewed alone.
<b>Financial Exploitation</b> The unauthorized use of a person's funds or property by another person.	Sudden changes in financial condition; Third party, including POA, has control of older adult's money but fails to meet the elder's needs; Suspicious changes in wills, power of attorney, titles, and/or policies; Items or cash missing from household; Unexplained unpaid bills or lack of medical care; Unnecessary services, goods, subscriptions.
<b>Sexual Abuse</b> Contact with a person without their consent; includes but is not limited to forcing sexual contact or forcing sex with a third party.	Unexplained STDs; Bruising around the breasts, inner thighs, upper arms and/or genital area; Difficulty walking or sitting; Hypervigilance; Shying away from being touched; Victim appears to be embarrassed or shameful.
<b>Emotional Abuse</b> The willful infliction of mental or emotional anguish by threat, humiliation, intimidation or other abusive conduct.	Unexplained changes in alertness and/or behavior, including withdrawal from normal behaviors; Caregiver exhibits controlling, threatening behaviors; Caregiver is verbally aggressive; Caregiver isolates the older adult.
<b>Neglect, including Self-Neglect</b> The failure to fulfill caretaking obligations.	Lack of heat, water, electric, food, medical attention; Extreme filth and clutter; Strong odors, poor hygiene, soiled clothing; Unsafe living space; Damaged assistive devices.

Referrals should be made to the Elder Advocacy Program **in any case before the court where elder abuse in any form is present or suspected**, whether the abuse occurred in the past or is ongoing. Referred individuals will be assessed for the following needs, and direct and indirect services will be provided, as needed:

**Civil legal representation (present or subsequent action)**

**Law enforcement assistance (police reports, follow up, EMDT case review)**

**Adult Protective Services (investigation, case management)**

**Court advocacy and support**

**Courtroom accessibility assistance**

**Senior Services (variety of non-legal, social services)**

**Questions? Call 716-853-3087 ext. 261**