

ELDER ABUSE DECISION TREE (for community settings)

Elder Abuse Suspected

Assess Severity of Situation

Is the older adult safe in their current environment?
Is medical attention required?
Has a criminal offence occurred?
Why is the situation causing concern?

Is client in immediate danger?
(i.e. unsafe)

Yes

**Contact police/shelter services/
crisis services, emergency medical
services**

Contact police when:

- client is in need of immediate protection
- you know or suspect a crime is being committed

Contact shelter services when:

- client is in need of safe, temporary housing

Contact mobile crisis services:

- when a mental health assessment and/or crisis intervention is required

Contact emergency medical services:

- when medical assessment, treatment and/or emergency transportation services are required

No

Is the client capable of making an informed decision?

No or unsure

Refer to primary care provider and/or mental health program for assessment

Yes

Does client accept intervention?

Yes

No

- Support older person to identify and decide on action options
- Refer to appropriate agencies/supports
- Review safety plan
- Document details

- Provide information
- Let older adult know supports are available
- Review safety plan
- Document details

Note: It is important to be familiar with your program/organization's policy and procedures regarding elder abuse. In addition, if you are concerned that the older adult is being mistreated by a co-worker/staff person, please contact the appropriate RHA program.

The Seniors Abuse Support Line is available for further information about resources and supports at 1-888-896-7183