

Legally speaking...

Did you know?

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ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF SENIORS

Is abuse of the elderly a crime?

There is no specific criminal offence called “elder abuse”. However, many acts of abuse against seniors might be criminal offences under the Criminal Code of Canada. For example, physical abuse of a senior could be an assault.

How does one get help in situations of abuse and neglect?

Some seniors and other adults face more barriers than others when they need to ask for help or safely remove themselves from an abusive situation. Seniors and vulnerable adults may be able to get some help under the Adult Guardianship Act.

Who can help in cases of abuse and neglect?

There are people who work for designated agencies in your community who can help. These people work for the health services in the community. “Designated” means that these agencies or services have been given authority to look into reports of suspected abuse and neglect of adults who cannot seek help for themselves.

How do I contact the designated agency staff?

There is usually a designated agency in each area where you can report abuse of vulnerable adults in that community. For specific numbers for designated agencies in your community, download the Public Guardian and Trustee’s list: http://www.trustee.bc.ca/pdfs/STA/Designated_Agencies_Contacts_sept_2011.pdf

Are there any other support services that one can get help from?

In many communities people who offer information and help to seniors who are abused and neglected belong to a Community Response Network (CRN), which is a group of people and organizations who have come together in the community to coordinate support and assistance for adults who are being abused.

For information, resources and assistance on abuse:

- 1) **BC Centre for Elder Advocacy and Support:** Senior’s Abuse and Information Line (SAIL): **1-866-437-1940**
- 2) **Public Guardian and Trustee of BC:** They can provide information or help in situations in which a person is unable to manage his or her own affairs.
Phone: 604-660-4444 in Vancouver
250-387-6121 in Victoria
Their web site is: www.trustee.bc.ca
- 3) **Community Response Network (CRN):** Website: www.bccrns.ca, click on your community. If you do not have access to the internet, then you can call BC CEAS at 1-866-437-1940 to get the contact numbers for CRNs and designated agencies in your area.
- 4) **VictimLink:** Call toll-free, 1-800-563-0808, anywhere in BC, 24 hours, 7 days a week if you are a victim of family or sexual violence, elder abuse or any other crime. This is a multilingual and TTY service. Call TTY at 604-875-0885.



**North Shore
Community Resources**
Connecting You to Community Services!