

FiftyForward *Victory Over Crime*



Victory Over Crime is a free program supporting older adults who have been affected by crime. Caring professionals help participants overcome the trauma of crimes such as neglect, financial exploitation, domestic violence, sexual assault, mail or phone fraud, burglary, and physical abuse.



CONTACT US



If you are older than 50, live in Davidson County, and have been the victim of abuse, exploitation, or another crime, call FiftyForward Victory Over Crime at 615-743-3417* for free assistance.



Learn more about the Coalition's programs at tncoalition.org or call 615-386-9406

OUR STORIES

Founded in 1956, FiftyForward annually touches the lives of more than 20,000 individuals – senior adults, children and families in Middle Tennessee. Through seven locations and a variety of programs in Davidson and Williamson counties, FiftyForward provides enrichment opportunities for adults 50 and older to remain engaged in living their lives to the fullest.

The Coalition has been acting to end domestic and sexual violence since the early 1980s. Their mission is to end domestic and sexual violence in the lives of Tennesseans and to change societal attitudes and institutions that promote and condone violence, through public policy advocacy, education and activities that increase the capacity of programs and communities to address such violence.

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End Elder Abuse

FIFTYFORWARD & THE TN
COALITION TO END DOMESTIC AND
SEXUAL VIOLENCE

WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?

Elder abuse is the mistreatment or harming of an older person. It can include physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, along with neglect and financial exploitation. Many social factors can make conditions ripe for elder abuse. Ageism (biases against or stereotypes about older people) also play a role in enabling elder abuse. By changing these contributing factors, we can prevent elder abuse and make sure everyone has the opportunity to thrive as we age.



TYPES OF ELDER ABUSE:

- **Physical abuse:** Use of force to threaten or physically injure an older person
- **Exploitation:** Illegal taking, misuse, or concealment of funds, property or assets of a vulnerable person. Identity theft is also considered a form of exploitation
- **Emotional abuse:** Verbal attacks, threats, rejection, isolation, or belittling acts that cause or could cause mental anguish, pain, or distress to an older person
- **Neglect:** Refusal or failure by those responsible to provide food, shelter, health care or protection for a vulnerable person.
- **Sexual abuse:** Sexual contact that is forced, tricked, threatened, or otherwise coerced upon an older person, including anyone who is unable to grant consent

RED FLAGS OF ABUSE

EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL SIGNS

- Unusual changes in behavior or sleep
- Fear or anxiety
- Isolated or not responsive
- Depression

PHYSICAL SIGNS

- Broken bones, bruises, and welts
- Cuts, sores, or burns
- Untreated bed sores
- Torn, stained or bloody underclothing
- Unexplained STDs or STIs
- Dirtiness, poor nutrition, or dehydration
- Poor living conditions
- Lack of medical aids (glasses, walker, teeth, hearing aid, medications)

FINANCIAL SIGNS

- Unusual changes in bank account or money management
- Unusual or sudden changes in a will or other financial documents
- Unpaid bills

How to Report Elder Abuse:

Tennessee is a mandatory reporting state. If you see abuse—or even suspect that an adult is being abused, neglected, or exploited—you must report it. *If the abuse is a life threatening emergency, call 911.* Otherwise, call the Tennessee Adult Protective Services unit toll free at **1-888-277-8366** or contact your local law enforcement agency. You can also visit <https://reportadultabuse.dhs.tn.gov/>.

