

## SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

Elder abuse is a serious problem that touches us all. Sadly, it is estimated that 1 in 20 elders will be a victim of abuse each year. Seniors are particularly vulnerable to financial exploitation such as by caregivers and family members who may defraud them of their property or life savings; by unscrupulous professionals; by telemarketing or lottery fraud and so on.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

We all have the right to live safely and securely. If an elderly person is being victimized, it is important to take action to stop it. Because victims themselves may be unwilling or unable to report, their well-being may depend on others in the community to assist them. If you suspect elder abuse or are otherwise concerned about an older person, report it by contacting one of the agencies listed on this brochure or your local law enforcement agency.

If you suspect elder abuse, call

### ❖ Adult Protective Services

Daytime:

Santa Barbara 681-4550

Santa Maria 346-8303

Lompoc/

Santa Ynez 737-6020

After hours:

Santa Barbara 692-5743

Santa Maria 934-6150

Lompoc 737-7737

Santa Ynez 686-5000

### ❖ Ombudsman

*(For seniors in care facilities)*

South County 967-0499

North County 928-4808

### ❖ Local Law Enforcement

### ❖ Emergency 9-1-1

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**For more information about  
The Elder Advocacy and  
Outreach Program, call**

South County 884-8077

North County 346-7518

# THE ELDER ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH PROGRAM



**Assistance and information  
for senior crime victims**



**OFFICE OF THE  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

**Christie Stanley  
District Attorney**

The Administration on Aging reports that the elder population is expected to double nation-wide over the next 30 years, due to longer life expectancies and “Baby Boomers” reaching age 65 between years 2010 and 2030. Santa Barbara County shows similar trends of rapid growth. With the rising elder population, the incidence of abuse and other types of crimes against seniors has, unfortunately, also risen.

In response to these trends, the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office has assigned specially trained prosecutors and criminal investigators to handle criminal cases involving elderly victims in our community.

In addition, Victim-Witness Advocates have been assigned to assist elderly crime victims through advocacy and outreach activities. Advocates provide ongoing community education about crime awareness, and act as liaisons between the victim

and/or the victim's family, law enforcement and the District Attorney's Office when a criminal case is filed in court. Through the Elder Advocacy and Outreach Program, Advocates can provide a variety of services to elder crime victims which can include (but are not limited to):

- Crisis Intervention
- Emergency Assistance
- Case Status Information
- Criminal Justice System Orientation
- Court Escort and Support
- Restitution Assistance
- Property Return Assistance
- Creditor Intervention
- Notification of Friends/Family
- Temporary Protective Orders
- Counseling Referrals
- Referrals to Community Resources
- Transportation Assistance
- State Compensation Claims Assistance
- Relocation Assistance
- Residential Security Upgrades
- Crime Prevention Information

## WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?

Elder abuse includes any kind of treatment resulting in physical harm, pain, exploitation or mental suffering. People who commit the crime of elder abuse are most often caregivers or relatives of the older person they harm.

There are four general categories of elder abuse:

- **Physical Abuse** such as battery, inappropriate use of medication, unnecessary physical restraint, or forced sexual activity.
- **Financial Abuse** such as theft, fraud, forgery, extortion, forced sale of property, or the wrongful use of Power of Attorney, Trusteeship or Conservatorship.
- **Psychological Abuse** such as threats, intimidation, humiliation or name-calling.
- **Neglect** such as deprivation of food, clothing, shelter, medication or personal care items, and isolation or abandonment.