To Report Financial Abuse or Fraud

- To report the misuse of a Veteran’s VA benefits, call 1-800-488-8244 or email VAOIGHotline@VA.gov
- You may also contact the Veterans Benefits Administration at 1-800-827-1000 or VA Fiduciary Hub at 1-888-407-0144
- For assistance concerning VA Extended Care & Home Care fraud, email VHAPurchasedLTSSupportGroup@va.gov
- Visit the Elder Abuse Resource Roadmap: Financial to find the right reporting agency for financial harms at elderjustice.gov/roadmap

Other Helpful Resources

- Visit the Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse & Neglect’s Veteran website http://www.centeronelderabuse.org/veterans.asp

For more information about the Department of Justice’s efforts to prevent and combat elder abuse, please visit the Elder Justice Website at:

elderjustice.gov

How to Get Immediate Help

Call 911
For life threatening circumstances

Call the Veterans Crisis Line
If you are in imminent danger and would like immediate assistance

1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255), Press 1
https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/

Contact your local Adult Protective Services
Find your local Adult Protective Services office using the locator map

http://www.napsa-now.org/get-help/help-in-your-area/

U.S. Attorney’s Office
Eastern District of New York
To request a speaker/presentation please contact:
USANYE-SpeakersBureau@usdoj.gov
(718) 254-6323

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• A Guide for VA Fiduciaries can be downloaded at http://benefits.va.gov/FIDUCIARY/Fid_Guide.pdf

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Get the facts about Elder Abuse
Empowering Older Veterans

Breon Peace
United States Attorney
Eastern District of New York
Older Veterans may be at Risk for Elder Abuse

- Almost 10 million Veterans are 65 or older. National studies find that over 10% of older adults are victims of elder abuse annually.
- Exposure to combat and military sexual trauma is associated with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and physical, mental health, alcohol, and drug problems. These problems are known to put older adults at risk for abuse and financial exploitation.
- Family members and caretakers may encourage or force older Veterans to take drugs or drink excessively to make them “easier” to care for or exploit financially.
- Veterans who have poor relationships with their families may not receive adequate care by these family members.
- Veterans who receive Veteran benefits such as a VA pension, VA Compensation per VBA, or Aid and Attendance can be at risk for financial abuse.
- As a result of providing care for an older Veteran with physical and mental health problems, caregivers may experience a decline in their own physical and mental health.

Warning Signs by Type of Abuse

**Physical Abuse**
- Bruises, black eyes, welts, lacerations, or rope marks
- Broken eyeglasses
- Medication overdose or under-utilization of prescribed drugs
- A sudden change in behavior

**Psychological Abuse**
- Being emotionally upset, agitated, withdrawn, non-communicative, or non-responsive
- Unusual behavior such as sucking, biting, or rocking
- The caregiver’s refusal to allow visitors to see an older Veteran alone
- Apologizing excessively

**Neglect and Abandonment**
- Dehydration, malnutrition, untreated bed sores, and poor personal hygiene
- Unattended or untreated health problems
- Unsanitary, unclean, or unsafe living conditions
- The desertion of an older Veteran at a shopping center or other public location

**Financial Abuse**
- Unexplained changes in bank accounts or banking practices
- Abrupt changes in a will or other financial documents
- Unexplained disappearance of funds or valuable possessions
- Sudden unexplained transfer of assets

**Sexual Abuse**
- Bruises around the breasts or genital area
- Unexplained venereal disease or genital infections
- Showing fear or becoming withdrawn when around a specific person
- Unexplained blood found on sheets, linens, or clothing