

Help is available in dealing with abuse

Submitted by Edmonton Elder Abuse Intervention Team

The Elder Abuse Intervention Team defines elder abuse as “any action or inaction by self or others that jeopardizes the health or well-being of an older adult.”

The criteria for potential clients are that they are 65 or older and are being abused by a family member or caregiver.

The most common type of call received is in regards to financial and psychological/emotional abuse. These types of abuse are often happening at the same time.

If a stranger steals your bank card and empties your accounts it is an easy choice to make a report to the police and to want to have that person charged. If you are renting a room to a stranger who refuses to pay their rent and becomes verbally abusive towards you, it is a clear choice to ask them to leave.

However, if this person is your adult child, what would you do? It is painful and difficult for a parent to see their children suffer or struggle. Love and a sense of responsibility make it difficult for the parent to stand up to the adult child and say “no” to their demands.

These problems often begin when the adult children are younger and are allowed to continue based on a hope of resolution. Some parents choose to do nothing for fear of retaliation or loss of child’s love.

Other parents choose to remain in the situation but find creative ways to improve their lives. The answers are different for each senior we deal with.

Most often, a senior needs to stand up and say “no”, call the police if they are afraid, and get protection orders in more extreme cases. If the parent is willing to reach out there are supports and services available to them.

*To find out more or to discuss a concern of abuse, call the Elder Abuse Intake line at 780-477-2929.*