



# *Help for Victims of Elder Abuse*

## **Elder Abuse - How to recognize it and what to do about it**

Help to stop increasing mistreatment, indignity and betrayal of the elderly, by exposing and making people accountable for their actions and statements. Abuse of the elderly can take many forms:

### **Physical Abuse:**

Any act that causes injury or physical discomfort

### **Emotional Abuse:**

Acts that inflict emotional or mental suffering

### **Financial Abuse:**

Misuse of an elderly persons' funds, assets or property without full consent and knowledge or under duress

### **Sexual Abuse:**

Sexual behaviour towards an elderly person without his/her full knowledge or consent

### **Active or Passive Neglect:**

Withholding, or not providing, the care required for physical and mental well-being

### **Violation of Human Rights:**

Denial of the fundamental right to freedom, security and accurate information and subjection to cruel and inhuman or degrading treatment

None of the signs mentioned above mean that elder abuse definitely occurred, but they should raise concern and be further investigated. **Listen to older persons and take their complaints seriously.**

### **What to do and Who to Call?**

If you are concerned that you or some you know might be abused please contact:

**HEAL (Halt Elder Abuse Line) TOLL FREE 0800 00 3081**

or

**HELDERBERG SOCIETY FOR THE AGED - 021 852 5130**

