
What You Can Do:

Talk to someone in your community, a trusted friend, family member, or clergy.

Call your local domestic violence program. They can provide services such as supportive peer counseling, emergency shelter, clothing, food, referrals, etc. Going to a shelter may give you time to think about what you need and what you want to do.

Call the National Hotline. Counselors are available to talk to you, assist you in finding a domestic violence shelter in your area, and to offer you support in the decisions that you make.

Call for police protection. You have the right to be protected by the police and the court. If you think that you are in danger, call the police (911).

Get medical services. If you are hurt or injured, you can go to your local hospital's emergency room.

Get a protection order. You may be eligible for an order of protection against domestic violence. These court orders can:

- Forbid any further threats, harassment or injury;
- Order the abuser to vacate (leave) or not to enter the shared home for a period of time;
- Provide other relief the court considers necessary in an emergency situation.

To obtain information about where and when to file for protective orders, contact your local court clerk or call the domestic violence program in your area.

If you need help,
please call:

National Domestic Violence Hotline

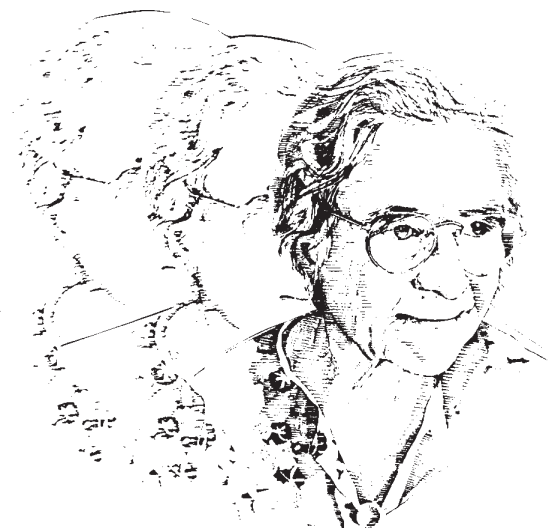
1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

1-800-787-3224 (TDD)

Se habla Español

The Phone Number for the
Domestic Violence Program
in your area is:

The Invisible Victims



Older Women



**Nevada Network Against
Domestic Violence**
220 South Rock Blvd., Suite 7
Reno, NV 89502
Voice/TTY 775-828-1115
Fax 775-828-9911
www.nnadv.org

Some Facts About Abuse:

Victims of domestic violence are often portrayed as poor women of childbearing age. But older women can be victims too. Older women are often more economically vulnerable than younger women, and may be unaware of domestic violence services which are available to them. Or, they may be reluctant to access services they perceive as being intended for younger women with children.

Consider the following facts:

- According to a national survey of the health of women conducted for the Commonwealth Fund in 1992, an estimated 1.4 million women between the ages of 45 and 64 were physically abused by their spouses¹; and more than a million American women age 65 and over are victims of abuse each year.²
- 15% of women age 65 and older (2.5 million individuals) live in poverty compared to approximately 9% of men age 65 and older (1 million individuals).³
- Some believe that by old age, those women that have been battered by their partners have either divorced their spouses or have died. However, abuse can happen over the entire course of a relationship, or it may first start in old age, and divorce is rare among older couples.

¹ Plichta, S. "Violence, Health, and Use of Health Services."

² Policy Research, Inc, 1994. Calculated from data from the Nat'l. Center on Elder Abuse.

³ Older Women's League. "Mother's Day Report," 1994.

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is a pattern of behaviors which an individual uses to control another in a relationship. Abuse in later life may affect older persons of any income level, any cultural or ethnic group, persons in good health or those which are incapacitated. Domestic violence shows anger by using threats and force, and makes you feel scared, depressed and/or worthless.

As an older woman, you are vulnerable to the same types of abuses experienced by younger women, however these abuses may be experienced in unique ways. Additionally, you may depend on a caregiver who may or may not be a family member to assist you with your daily needs; and caregiver violence is oftentimes characterized as domestic violence, particularly if the victim and the non-familial caregiver reside together.

"Elder Abuse" or abuse in later life, can take many forms, including:

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Psychological Abuse
- Financial Abuse (or Exploitation)
- Neglect

Does your spouse or someone else in your home or family:

- ✓ Belittle you or call you names privately or in the presence of others?
- ✓ Manipulate you through control of your money and/or property?
- ✓ Make threats which cause you to fear for your safety or for the safety of others in your family/ household?
- ✓ Destroy personal property or sentimental items?
- ✓ Restrain you against your will?
- ✓ Push, shove, hit, kick or bite you?
- ✓ Threaten you with a weapon?

If you could answer "yes" to any of these questions, you have experienced abuse. YOU ARE NOT ALONE, and you are not to blame for the abuse in your life.

As defined by Nevada Law (NRS 200.5092), "Elder Abuse" means the *willful and unjustified infliction of pain, injury or mental anguish; or deprivation of food, shelter, clothing, or services which are necessary to maintain the physical or mental health of an older person.* (For the purposes of the law an "older person" is defined as a person 60 years of age or older.) "Elder Exploitation" is the *wrongful use of an older person or his/her money or property to the advantage of another.*