



Cincy Senior Corner

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Your Free Monthly Publication



Trusted Senior Home Care

Protecting Seniors from Abuse, Neglect

Sometimes seniors are easy targets for strangers. Sadly, however, family members – spouses, adult children and even grandchildren – often are responsible for abuse and neglect of the vulnerable elderly.

Many caregivers don't mean to shout, slap or ignore needs of their elders. Yet sometimes the senior's poor health and medication changes his or her behavior, and the caregiving burden and stress falls on too few family members, according to Pro Seniors, Inc., a non-profit organization that provides free legal help to Ohioans ages 60 and up.

Abuse and neglect

The Ohio Revised Code defines:

- "abuse" as infliction upon an adult of injury, unreasonable confinement, intimidation or cruel punishment with resulting physical harm, pain or mental anguish.
- "neglect" as failure of an adult to provide the goods or services necessary to avoid the senior's physical harm, mental anguish or mental illness.

Bodily injuries such as broken bones, cuts, abrasions and burns can be signs of physical abuse. Psychological pain can cause low self-esteem, anxiety, withdrawn, depression and confusion. Sometimes, family members don't realize how much help the senior needs, resulting in malnutrition, poor personal hygiene and over- or under-medication.

Sometimes there are warning signs: frequent arguments or tension between a caregiver and the senior, or changes in the senior's personality or behavior.

Prevention

According to Pro Seniors, each senior needs a network of family, friends and community relationships. The primary caregiver should take advantage of respite care or an adult day care, and concerned family members should call or visit, preferably on a regular basis. Caregivers need a break – and may need to seek counseling or join a support group.

Did you know...?

- According to Pro Seniors, certain professionals are required to report elder abuse to Adult Protective Services within their county's Department of Jobs and Family Services. These include health care professionals; employees of hospitals, residential care facilities, nursing homes and mental health facilities; senior service providers such as counselors and social workers, and members of the clergy and attorneys.
- A Caring Choice trains its employees – companions, homemakers, home health aides, caregivers and supervisors – to identify signs of abuse and neglect, and to report them as appropriate.
- Ohio's Attorney General works with local law enforcement and social service agencies to prosecute crimes against the elderly.
- Dementia causes "good days and bad days" in the lives of seniors and this inconsistency in behavior can be very hard to deal with for the family caregiver. The local Alzheimer's Association can help.

A Caring Choice Releases Video - Family members explain why they trust A Caring Choice.

[Click here](#) to view the video now on our website.

Available Help: If you have questions regarding what type of non-skilled services are available and how to pay for them, call us at 513-574-4148.

A Caring Choice provides In-Home Care Services to enable Cincinnati's elderly to safely remain in their homes. Services are personalized, affordable, available 7 days per week - 24 hours per day and include: cooking, cleaning, laundry, transportation, personal hygiene assistance, companionship and medication reminders.

A Caring Choice, Inc. - 2010 & 2011 Cincinnati Regional Chamber "Small Business of the Year" Finalist

Trusted Care for Those You Love: Call (513) 574-4148

More Information: www.acaringchoice.com

Comments: [Contact Us](#)

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