

REPORTING CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Dear South Dakotans:

The Office of Attorney General welcomes the assistance of citizens in our fight against Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation.

Some of our vulnerable residents will be abused or neglected by the people they trust most. If you are aware of any elder being abused, neglected, or financially exploited please call your local police, sheriff, state's attorney, or DSS.

We are here to protect the elderly and disabled from abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation. Together, we can keep South Dakota a wonderful place to spend our retirement years.

*Marty J. Jackley
Attorney General*

If you suspect Abuse or Financial Exploitation is happening anywhere in South Dakota, CALL...

Local Law Enforcement:

Dial **911**

SD Department of Social Services

Dial (605) 773-3165

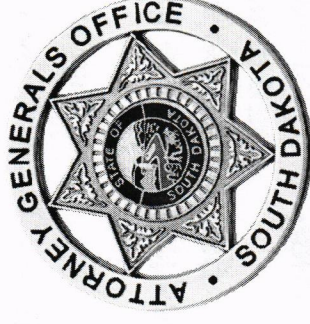
States Attorney for your county.

Any call you make will be considered for investigation by your local police or sheriff. The information will also be provided to the Attorney General's Office.

*South Dakota
Attorney General's Office*

**Elder Abuse and
Financial Exploitation
Subdivision**

**Protecting South
Dakota's Elderly and
Disabled**



**Abuse
Neglect
Financial Exploitation**

The Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation Subdivision is part of the Office of South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley. The subdivision was created based on the recommendations of the Elder Abuse Task Force to the South Dakota Legislature, and it is funded through a grant of the Unified Judicial System.

The Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation Subdivision is responsible for providing education on the topic of Elder Abuse, as well as conducting investigations and prosecutions of the following:

- **Abuse of the Elderly and Disabled (including physical and emotional/psychological);**
- **Neglect of the Elderly and Disabled; and**
- **Financial exploitation of the Elderly and Disabled.**

Individuals who commit these crimes are subject to criminal prosecution. The Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation

Subdivision will also assist County State's Attorneys with prosecutions.

There are several key terms that will trigger the involvement of the subdivision. Some of those terms are listed below.

ELDER

A person 65 years or older.

FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

The wrongful taking or exercising control over property of the vulnerable individual; with the intent to defraud; committed by a person in a position of trust.

EMOTIONAL AND

PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE

A caretaker's infliction of a sexual act, unreasonable confinement, damage to property or pets, or ridiculing or demeaning conduct directed at a vulnerable individual.

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical harm, bodily injury, attempt to cause harm or injury, or a vulnerable person's fear of

imminent physical harm or bodily injury.

CARETAKER is a person or entity who is entrusted with a vulnerable person's property, or who is responsible for the vulnerable person's welfare, and who assumes a position of trust.

ABUSE can occur at the hands of a trusted friend, child, relative, or employee.

NEGLECT will occur at the hands of a caretaker. Sometimes the vulnerable person will refuse to say anything out of fear of retaliation by that caretaker.

FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

includes the unauthorized use of a vulnerable person's private funds, assets, or property with the intent to deprive that person of rightful benefit, use, or possession. Financial exploitation is sometimes committed by a caretaker, by a child, or by a person who exercises power of attorney.