



A MESSAGE FROM ANTHONY A. SCARPINO, JR.
Westchester County District Attorney

Anthony A. Scarpino

Dear Friends,

As Westchester County's chief law enforcement officer, I am concerned with the safety and security of Westchester's growing senior population. To increase public awareness and assist seniors in our community, I wanted to share with you information about the Elder Abuse Unit in the District Attorney's Office.

Elder abuse can take many forms. It can range from physical abuse and emotional abuse to financial exploitation. Frequently, this abuse can be undetected or unnoticed.

As your District Attorney, I am committed to combatting crimes against our seniors. At the District Attorney's office, our Elder Abuse Unit prosecutes these cases with the concern and compassion that is needed to protect seniors while holding offenders accountable. We know that the criminal justice system can be overwhelming for victims, and we provide a wide array of services that assist older individuals in simplifying the process and accessing needed resources.

If you suspect abuse or have concern for the welfare of an older person in your family or your community, please reach out to the District Attorney's Elder Abuse Unit at (914) 995-3000.



Office of the District Attorney

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ELDER ABUSE

Understand, Detect, Find Help



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The Elder Abuse Unit

The Elder Abuse Unit of the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office specializes in the investigation and prosecution of crimes against older victims in the County. An Assistant District Attorney with specialized training in the detection, investigation and prosecution of Elder Abuse handles all of these cases from the initial report of abuse until the completion of any prosecution of the matter, and is assisted by a Criminal Investigator of the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office. The Investigator assists the prosecutor to gather evidence with the goal of enhancing a prosecution of the offender. As it is often difficult for an elderly victim to obtain transportation or drive themselves to the office for a consultation, the Assistant District Attorney and Investigator are available to respond to the victim’s residence to make the process easier for these elderly and vulnerable victims. This office works in cooperation with local law enforcement and Adult Protective Services in the investigation and prosecution of Elder Abuse.

Community Outreach

Members of the Elder Abuse Unit regularly visit Elder Care facilities and community centers within Westchester County to educate residents on how to protect themselves against physical abuse and financial exploitation. Assistant District Attorneys alert and inform seniors to pay close attention to the actions of their home health aides and family members in order to protect themselves from thefts and abuse. With a notable increase in the number of financial scams targeting seniors,

the Assistant District Attorney educates the public on scams that are prevalent in the County.

Law Enforcement Training

Assistant District Attorneys in the Elder Abuse Unit conduct trainings at local law enforcement agencies to educate the police on the detection and investigation of crimes against the elderly. Police Officers are updated on the latest trends in crimes that can have an impact on the safety and welfare of the elderly residents of the County. Assistant District Attorneys also educate law enforcement on the services and assistance that can be provided by Adult Protective Services to promote a collaborative effort to protect this vulnerable community.

Signs of abuse may not be obvious. They could include the appearance of bruises or other injuries or the onset of depression, confusion, disorientation or agitation.



What is Elder Abuse?

Elder Abuse is any crime involving a victim who is 60 years of age or older. In the majority of these crimes, the victim is specifically targeted because of their age. **Examples of typical crimes committed against elderly victims include:**

- Physical abuse or neglect at the hands of a family member or caregiver
- Financial exploitation and thefts committed by a family member, caregiver, home health aide or a stranger engaged in a fraudulent scam
- Abuse of a power of attorney by someone entrusted to act as a fiduciary

Important Phone Numbers

If a senior citizen has been physically abused or is in danger call 911 immediately.

District Attorney’s Office Elder Abuse Unit	(914) 995-3000
District Attorney’s Office 24 hour Elder Abuse hotline	(914) 995-1940
Westchester County Adult Protective Services	(914) 995-2259
Elder Abuse Helpline	(914) 813-6436
The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elder Abuse Prevention at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale: A shelter for victims of abuse	800-56-SENIOR or 800-567-3646