

The First Visit

Checklist for Service Providers Reaching Out to Faith-Based Organizations Regarding Elder Abuse

- Call for appointment. Be aware of holidays and service schedule. Check the community's website.
- Learn appropriate etiquette for visit.
 - Cover your head and/or arms?
 - Women wear skirts?
 - Wash your feet upon entrance?
 - Take off your shoes?
 - Men enter one door, women another?
 - Usual mode of greeting (bow, handshake, etc.)?
 - Other considerations?
- Confirm time and location. Be prompt. Bring resources (and symbolic gift, if you have one).
- State your reason for the visit: many elder abuse victims turn to faith leaders for help. You need their support to help keep victims safe. Faith community leadership is critical.
- Briefly explain what elder abuse is and that it affects all faith communities.
- Ask about their experiences. Listen. Ask questions.
- Briefly explain your agency's interest in keeping victims safe.
- Suggest partnering with the congregation. Ask what a partnership might look like. Listen.
- Plan a next step.
 - Ask for their ideas.
 - Invite this contact to Roundtable or other forum?
 - Plan another visit with additional participants?
 - Invite this contact and others to a training or event?
 - Other suggestions.
- Send thank you note and follow up on next steps.

For more information, please visit www.interfaithpartners.org or www.ncall.us.

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