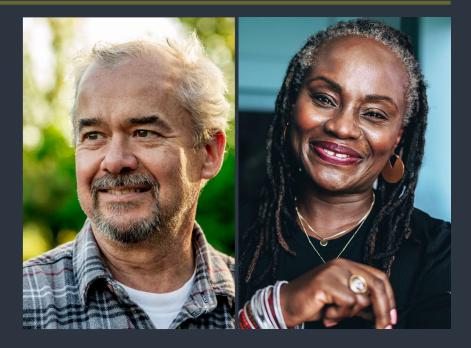
# OVW New Grantee Orientation: Resource Centers





# National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL)

An initiative of End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin, NCALL is committed to creating a world that respects the dignity of older adults and enhances the safety and quality of life of older victims and survivors of abuse. We engage communities to foster a collaborative, inclusive, survivor-centered response to abuse in later life.



#### Disclaimer

This project was supported by Grant No. 15JOVW-23-GK-05142-MUMU awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

#### Presenters

#### Kristin Burki Director, NCALL



Ann Laatsch Justice System Coordinator, NCALL



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Poll #1: What is your experience working with older adults in your advocacy work?



Poll #2 Describe your organization's current capacity to effectively reach and serve older survivors.



#### Learning Objectives

As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- Describe the importance of addressing abuse in later life.
- Explain individual and systemic dynamics and issues specific to abuse in later life.
- Identify NCALL resources to help OVW grantees incorporate age-inclusive strategies to support older survivors

# What Is Abuse in Later Life?

Abuse in Later Life is the nexus between domestic violence, sexual violence, and elder abuse.



#### Abuse in Later Life

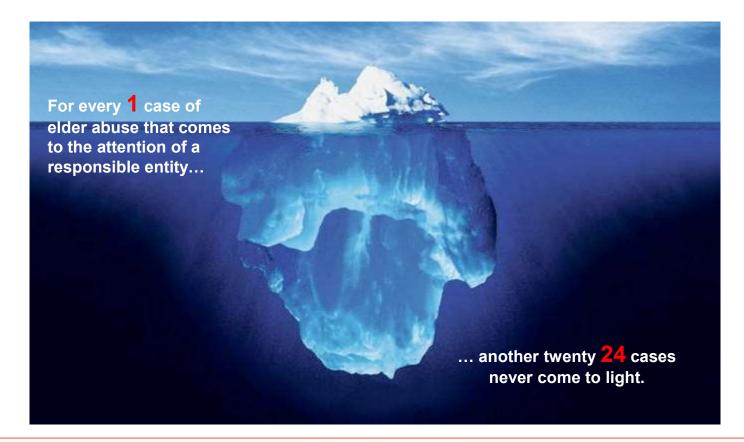
- Victims 50+
- Offenders could be an intimate partner, family member, caregiver, or any other trusted person
- Physical, sexual, financial, emotional, psychological, neglect and abandoment
- Types of abuse often co-occur
- May occur in any setting, including the community or long-term care facilities

# Elder Abuse in the Community

At least one in 10 community-dwelling older adults experienced some form of abuse.



#### Elder Abuse: Under the Radar



Source: NYS Elder Abuse Prevalence Study; Weill Cornell Medical College, NYC Department for the Aging; Lifespan; (2011). @2011, MT Connelly, Life Long Justice.

### Intimate Partner Violence in Later Life (1)

Studies have consistently shown that a large proportion of elder abuse cases involve female victims with spouses as perpetrators.



## Intimate Partner Violence in Later Life (2)

- Relationships of all genders
- Long-term relationship
- New relationship
- Late onset



#### Tammy and Mary Lou



Tammy is a 58 year old woman who experienced physical and sexual violence with an intimate partner.

#### Unique Issues for Older Victims

Large Group Discussion

What unique or different issues (from a younger survivor) may an older survivor experience when in an abusive relationship or in considering leaving an abusive relationship?



#### Unique Issues for Older Adults (Teach Behind)

- Older adults may be more reluctant to report abuse or seek help due to wanting to protect the perpetrator (may be their adult child)
- May be living with significant health challenges
- Much more likely that financial abuse and exploitation is involved (including benefits received)
- Fear of having to leave their home for a nursing home or assisted living

#### **Elder Sexual Abuse**

Elder sexual abuse is often embedded in a pattern of multifaceted elder abuse, whether it occurs in domestic or institutional settings.



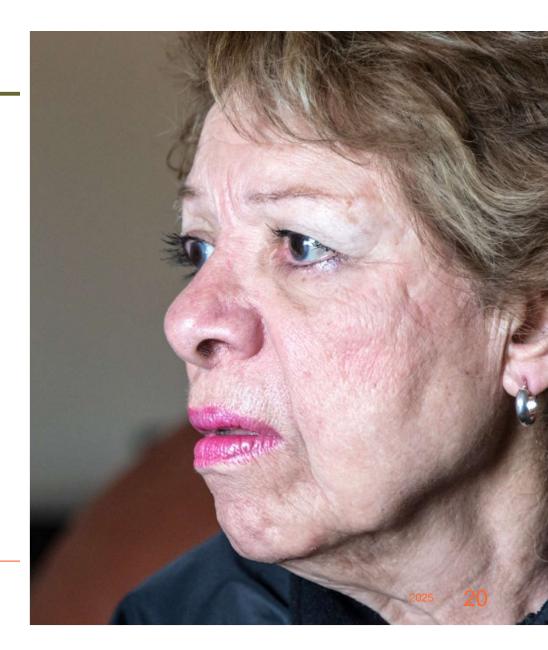
# Misconceptions of Sexual Assault and Older Victims

Until recently, it has historically and widely been beyond comprehension and belief that elders are victims of sexual assault.



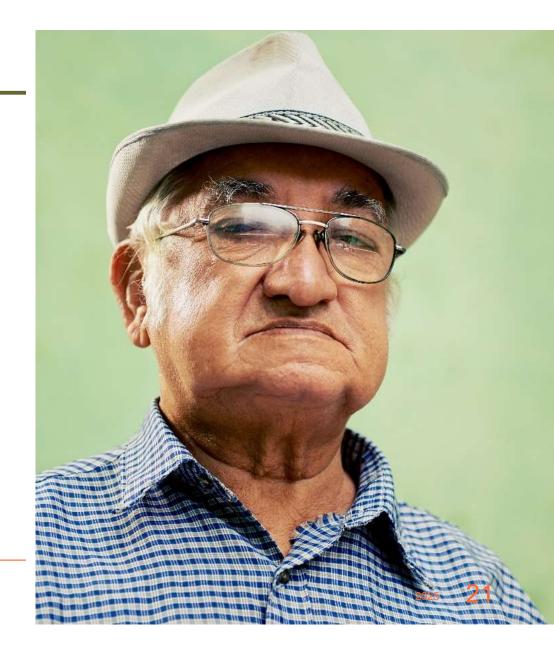
## Stalking in Later Life

More than 600,000 persons over the age of 50 were victims of stalking within a 12-month period.



# Financial Exploitation

- Financial exploitation often co-occurs with other forms of abuse.
- Family, friends, caregivers and trusted others may be the offenders.



# Why Address Abuse in Later Life?

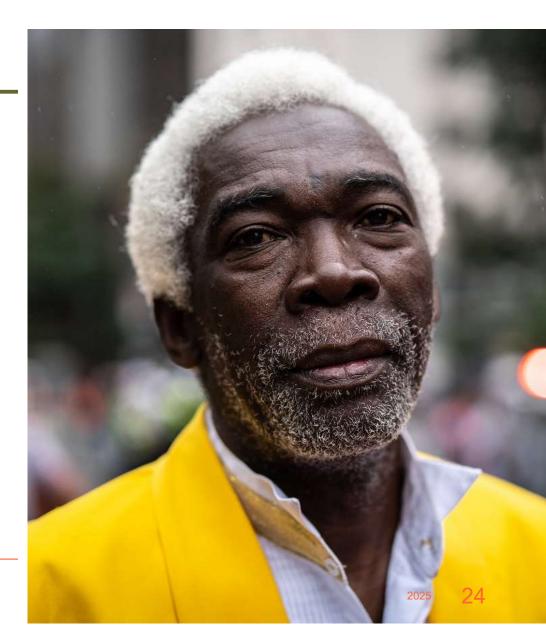


#### Abuse Occurs Across the Lifespan



## Changing Demographics

Older adults are projected to outnumber children under age 18 for the first time in U.S. history by 2034, according to US Census Bureau projections.



# Growing Number of 65+

10,000 Americans turn 65 every day.



# Celebrating 65!

From 2024-2027, over 4.1 million Americans will turn 65 each year.



#### More Women Than Men

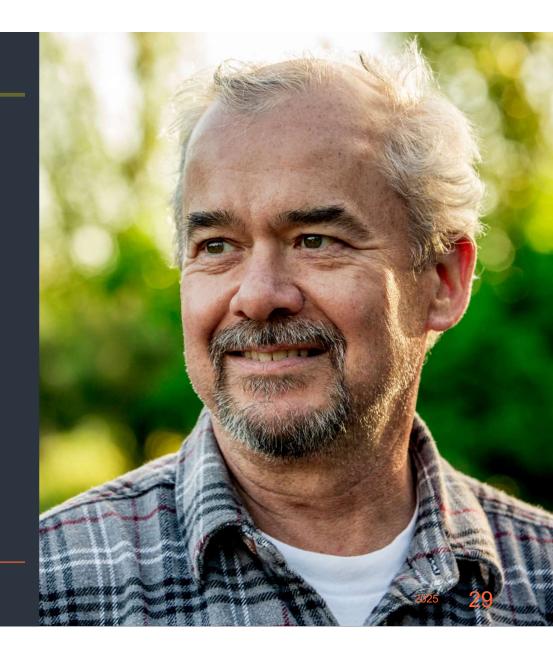
In 2020, 30.8 million women and 24.8 million men were age 65 and older.



Everyone Deserves to Age with Safety and Dignity

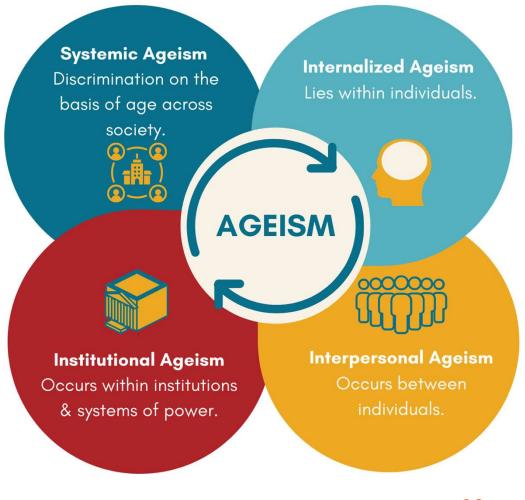


### Ageism & The Barriers Older Survivors Face



# Levels of Ageism

Graphic: Maine Council on Aging



#### Ageism is Everywhere









6 Tips for Wearing Shorts If You're Over 60, Experts Say

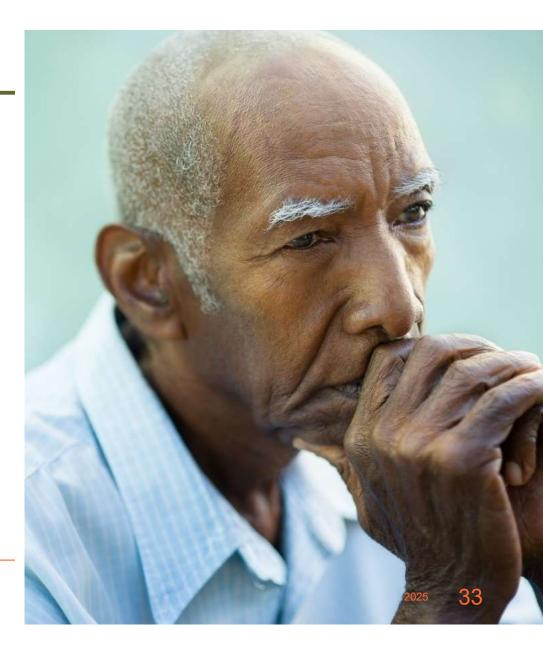
Ageism Creates Barriers to Accessing Support Services

Older victims are made invisible—not prioritized in services.



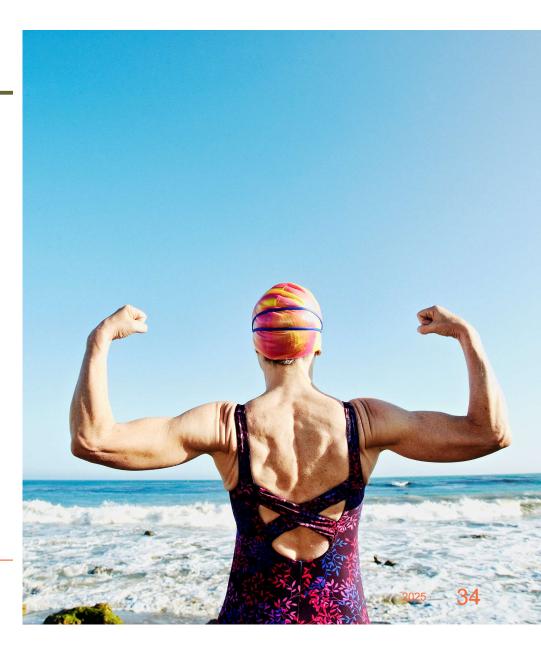
## Discrimination to Legitimize and Sustain Inequalities

Like racism and sexism, discrimination on the basis of age serves a social and economic purpose: to legitimize and sustain inequalities between groups.



# Aging does not Equal Incapacity

Many older adults have full capacity and are actively engaged in their communities.



### How Does Ageism Impact Victim Services?

Enter responses in the chat box.



### Ageism and Elder Abuse (1)

Ageism creates a culture that ignores and tolerates elder abuse—and allows abuse of older adults to flourish and grow.



## Ageism and Elder Abuse (2)

Too often older adults are not believed when they report abuse because of ageist assumptions about dementia.



## **Confronting Ageism**

- A key part of ageism is denial: our reluctance, even in midlife, to admit that we are aging.
- Unless we confront the ageism in and around us, we lay the foundation for our own irrelevance and marginalization.



## Barriers for Older Adults in Accessing Services

- Inaccessible materials
- Lack of accommodations: hearing, mobility
- Cultural or language barriers
- Lack of emotional support
- Medical needs: may need more frequent breaks, incontinence products, food/liquids
- Transportation challenges

## An Age-Inclusive Lens

How can you make your outreach and the services you provide reflect abuse across the lifespan?

Enter responses in the chat box.



## Age-Inclusive Outreach (teach behind) (1)

- Develop outreach materials that represent a range of older adults from variety of backgrounds.
- Avoid reinforcing negative stereotypes of aging, including frailty, reduced cognitive ability and dependence.
- Training Incorporate age-inclusive examples, discuss risk factors associated with abuse at different life stages

## Age-Inclusive Outreach (teach behind) (2)

- Language use respectful and inclusive language such as "older adults" vs "seniors" or "the elderly"
- Images use images and photographs of older adults from diverse backgrounds, being careful not to reinforce stereotypes
- Incorporate Older Adult Perspectives Ensure focus group participants or video testimonials reflect voices of older adults

## Age-Inclusive Services (teach behind)

- Age-relevant safety planning
- Support groups for older adults
- Address accessibility in all aspects of services
- Partnerships Expand community partners that serve older adults, such as aging services or adult protective services.
- Learn your mandatory reporting requirements

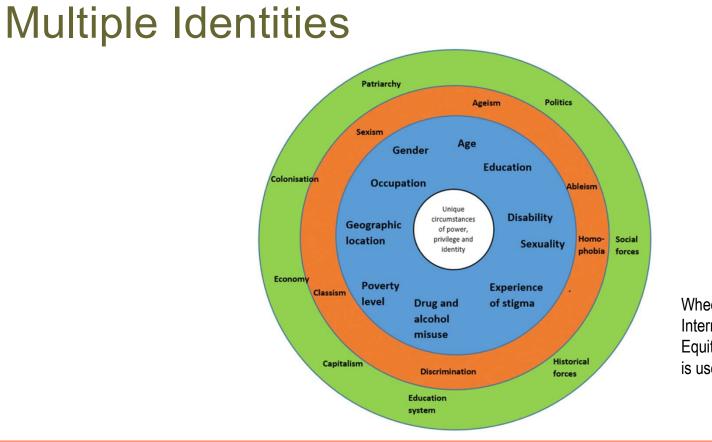
# Intersectionality



## Intersectionality

Kimberlé Crenshaw introduced the concept to describe "The interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender, which create overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage."





Wheel courtesy of International Journal for Equity in Health 2019 and is used with permission.

## Oppressions Compound and Reinforce

- Ageism has significant individual and societal consequences.
- When ageism intersects with other forms of bias, individuals' implications can worsen.



# Intersections: Age and \_\_\_\_\_

- Gender
- Race and Ethnicity
- Immigration Status
- Sexual Orientation
- Religion
- Disability



# Each person's identity impacts their experience with aging

The identities we hold play a critical role in how we experience aging:

- Economic security
- Housing security
- Access to quality healthcare
- Caregiving supports

# When Intersectionality is Ignored

Lack of culturally appropriate services can impede assistance and can increase vulnerability to abuse for older adults from nonmainstream cultures.



# An Intersectional Lens

How can you make your services for older adults reflect an intersectional framework?



## Intersectional Services (teach behind)

- Build equitable partnerships reflecting the diversity of your service population
- Plan for accessibility from the onset
- Ensure outreach materials reflect the diversity of your community and are distributed to various communities and populations
- Hire staff that reflect the diversity of your service population, especially the most vulnerable
- Attend community events that center the most vulnerable populations of your community

## Supporting Your Work



## NCALL Team



## OVW TTA Provider



- Training and Technical Assistance Providers for the OVW Abuse in Later Life Grant Program
- National Institute on the Prosecution of Elder Abuse
- Abuse in Later Life National Resource Center

## Abuse in Later Life National Resource Center



- Promote victim-defined advocacy and services for older survivors
- Foster coordinated community response (CCR) teams
- Advocate for elder justice
- Raise awareness of abuse in later life and elder abuse
- Engage in policy development
- Partner with organizations that address DV, SA, stalking, abuse in later life, and elder abuse

## Technical Assistance



- Respond to TA Requests (phone, email)
  - Training Requests
  - Training Materials, Resources, and Services Referrals
  - Coordinated Community

## Training



- Virtual Training on Abuse in Later Life
  - Stalking in Later Life Webinar
  - Civil Legal Remedies Webinar Series with ABA
  - Other Topics planned annually
- Local, State, National In-person Trainings
  - Common Training Topics
    - DV in Later Life
    - SA in Later Life
    - Stalking in Later Life
    - Supporting Older Survivors

# Resources and Tools



## NCALL Website

- Publications
- Videos
- Shareable Graphics
- E-newsletter
- Abuse in Later Life Advocates Listserv

## NCALL Website





### www.ncall.us

## **Definitions and Dynamics**

Defining Abuse in Later Life and Elder	r Abuse
What is Abuse in Later Life?	+
What is Elder Abuse?	+
Dynamics of Abuse in Later Life	
Abuse in Later Life Dynamics	+ ^
	<u>Safe exit</u> Quickly & safely exit this site

### www.ncall.us/abuse-in-later-life/

## **NCALL** Publications Library

## **Publications Library**

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		8		8

Our Publications Library is home to a number of written resources, toolkits, webinars, articles, and more, created by NCALL staff and through collaboration with various organizations and entities in the elder abuse field.

Click here to be directed to the Publications Library.



### www.ncall.us/resources/publications-library/

## Abuse in Later Life Info Sheets



Find them in the Publications library and then click on the Abuse in Later Life and Elder Abuse tab.

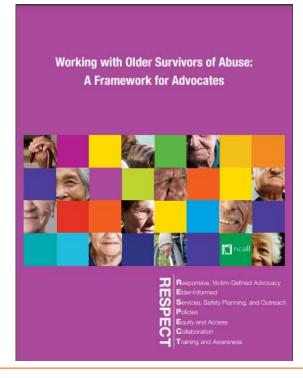
# Abuse in Later Life Education Series for Advocates





Find them in the Publications library and then click on the Advocacy tab.

## **Guiding Principles for Advocates**



Working With Older Survivors of Abuse: A Framework for Advocates



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## Supporting Older Survivors of Domestic Violence

### Domestic Violence Across the Lifespan: Supporting Older Survivors

Domestic violence occurs at all stages of the lifespan, from adolescence to young adulthood to older age. Age plays a significant role in victims' perception of abuse, the way they seek help, and their definitions of healing and justice.

#### **Distinct Dynamics Facing Older Survivors**

Some dynamics of domestic violence occur across the lifespan. For example, forms of abuse are often co-occurring and may include physical violence and sexual assault, as well as verbal, emotional, economic, and spiritual abuse. Coercive control is often at the foundation.

Domestic violence in later life (age 50+) shares these dynamics, and there are additional dynamics unique to older victims.

- Relationship: Spousal relationships or partnerships may be long term—for example, marriages that have lasted 50 years or more.
  Some are new relationships, often following the death or divorce from a previous partner. The abuse may occur throughout the relationship or be a relatively new occurrence.
- Tactics change over time: Physical abuse often decreases while emotional abuse, economic coercion, and verbal threats increase. Many older victims describe these tactics as even more damaging.
- Isolation: Many people experience social isolation due to factors that commonly impact aging adults such as an increased likelihood of living alone, the loss of family or friends, or health conditions. This is compounded by the use of isolation as a common tactic of domestic violence.
- Financial Factors: Economic dependence may be due to an older victim who has never worked outside the home. Alternatively, the victim may be the sole breadwinner, but due to a lifelong relationship, feel obligated to support their abuser.
- Health Factors: Aging-related health and capacity factors play a role in the dynamics of abuse, such as a victim or abuser being a caregiver or requiring care.

Domestic Violence Across the Lifespan: Supporting Older Victims



## **Age-Inclusive Advocacy**

#### Age-Inclusive Advocacy: Expanding Services and Awareness for Older DV Survivors

Domestic violence (DV) advocates and programs can have a profound and positive influence on the lives of older survivors. Advocates can use their specialized skills and training and their confidential relationship with survivors to help them better understand the dynamics of abuse; to be aware of the available options, services, and resources; and to assist them as they navigate through complex interventing systems. Advocates and programs can also help combat ageist social norms by promoting dignity, respect, and accessibility for persons of all ages in their work and service programs.

This Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM), the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (RCALL) is offering some tips and strategies for addressing DV in later life and raising awareness of DV in this often-overlooked demographic. Below are five considerations for enhancing your services for older survivors; and five strategies for including older survivors in your DVAM campaign. We hope these ideas offer ways to concretely and meaningfully engage older survivors.



Five considerations for enhancing your services to meet the needs of older survivors

 Utilize safety planning strategies that are both age appropriate and age-relevant: When tailoring supportive services to address the unique needs of older survivors from various backgrounds, it is vital to respect their confidentiality, privacy, and autonomy while addressing how implications of mandatory reporting, power of attorney, guardianship, healthcare needs, and financial needs impact service provision. Expanding Services and Awareness for Older Domestic Violence Survivors



## Supporting Older Survivors of Domestic Violence

Sexual Abuse in Later Life: Believing and Supporting Older Survivors

"The invisibility of older people who have been raped or sexually assaulted in research and in practice is an indictment of our society and needs urgent redress."

Sexual abuse occurs across the lifespan, but sexual abuse in later life is highly under-researched, under-reported and under-discussed—even often not believed to happen at all. This resource aims to bring much needed attention to the issue of sexual abuse in later life is, describe the unique issues faced by older survivors of sexual abuse, and discuss the barriers older survivors face in accessing safety and healing. The resource will also briefly examine why sexual abuse in later life falls under the radar and conclude with some strategies for supporting older survivors



#### Understanding Sexual Abuse in Later Life What is Sexual Abuse in Later Life?

Sexual abuse in later life is a form of <u>abuse in later life</u> that includes any non-consensual sexual contact of any kind with an older adult. Sexual contact with any person incapable of giving consent is also considered sexual abuse. It includes but is not limited to:

- unwanted touching and all types of sexual assault or battery, such as rape, sodomy, and coerced nudity;
- hands-off crimes such as sexually explicit photographing, unwanted sexual comments, sexual threats, exhibitionism, or voyeuristic acts;
- intrusive or unnecessary touching of the older adult's genitals under the guise of care.

Sexual Abuse in Later Life: Believing and Supporting Older Survivors



## Supporting Older Survivors of Stalking

### Stalking in Later Life

#### Introduction

Almost 30% of all stalking victims are aged 50 or older', but media and pop culture depictions of this crime would lead one to believe that its victims are primarily young. A study reviewing data from the National Violence Against Women Survey found that older adults were almost as likely as younger people to be stalked? The study also found that women age 55 and older are more likely than men of the same age to be stalked. Most often the stalker is someone known to the victim and often stalking occurs as part of domestic violence in later life<sup>3</sup>.

Many victims who are older or have a disability may not be believed if they report stalking, particularly if the victim has dementia or psychiatric disabilities. Others may not be believed because of the fraitly or disability of the stalker. By educating ourselves about the prevalence and dynamics of stalking among victims over 50, people who work with older survivors can more quickly and effectively identify or develop resources and services to meet older victims' unique needs.

#### What is stalking?

Stalking is a pattern of repeated, unwanted attention, harassment, and contact directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear for their safety or the safety of others or suffer substantial emotional distress.



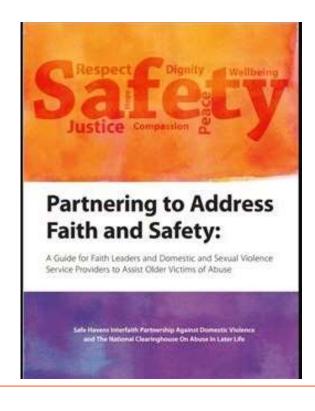
### Stalking in Later Life



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## Working with the Faith Community



Partnering to Address Faith and Safety: A Guide for Faith Leaders and Domestic and Sexual Violence Service Providers to Assist Older Victims of Abuse



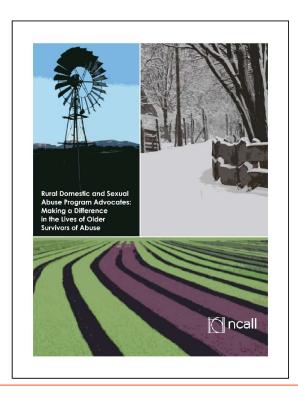
## Working with Health Care Providers



## Aging with Respect Elder Safety Card



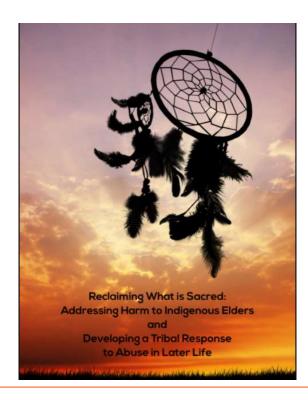
## Advocacy in Rural Communities



Rural Domestic and Sexual Abuse Program Advocates: Making a Difference in the Lives of Older Survivors of Abuse



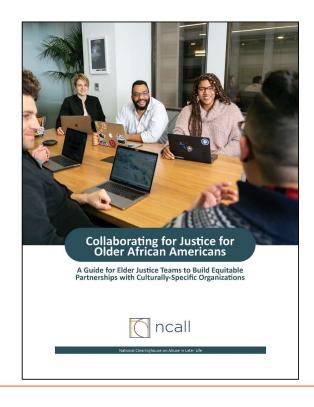
### Advocacy in Tribal Communities



Reclaiming What is Sacred: Addressing Harm to Indigenous Elders and Developing a Tribal Response to Abuse in Later Life



### Advocacy in African American Communities (1)



Collaborating for Justice for Older African Americans: A Guide for Elder Justice Teams to Build Equitable Partnerships with Culturally-Specific Organizations



### Advocacy in African American Communities (2)



Increasing Access to Healing Services and Just Outcomes for Older African American Crime Survivors: A Toolkit for Enhancing Critical Knowledge and Informing Action within the Crime Victim Assistance Field Increasing Access to Healing Services and Just Outcomes for Older African American Crime Survivors



## Systems Change Workbooks

- APS/Elder Abuse organizations
- Courts
- Law Enforcement
- Prosecution
- Victim Services



Find them in the Publications Library and then click on the **Collaboration & Coordinated Community Response** tab.



### **CCR** Tools

- Coordinated Community Response Teams' Self-Assessment Tool
- CCR Resources



Find them in t

Find them in the Publications Library and then click on the **Collaboration & Coordinated Community Response** tab.

### **For Professionals**

#### For Professionals

Given the complexity of abuse in later life cases, a multidisciplinary response is often the most effective approach. An effective collaborative response includes engaging key partners who hold integral roles in addressing abuse in later life.

The benefits of working together include:

- Gaining a more complete picture of victims' needs by hearing from professionals with various perspectives
- Creating a more complete list of options for victims by raising awareness among professionals of remedies and services that are available, or highlighting gaps in available services
- Leveraging additional resources
- · Reducing the duplication of services

Please see the pages below to find resources for some of these professions. Visit our Resources page to find an expansive list of resources organized by topic.

#### Other pages in this section

Civil Attorneys Civil attorneys and other civil legal system professionals work each day to Criminal Justice Systems ensure victim safety and hold **Stakeholders** offenders accountable for harm to Crime victim services providers, older survivors. Their knowledge and elder abuse, as well as the legal remedies and non-litigation resources available to older survivors, are critical in developing effective intervention strategies to end elder abuse and supports and just outcomes. prevent further harm to older adults.

#### Crime Victim Services Domestic and Sexual Providers/Advocates and Violence Advocates and Programs Many older survivors will seek the

advocacy.

help of domestic and sexual violence understanding of the fundamentals of other stakeholders and professionals with the abuse they experience. Old with the abuse they experience. Older victims can benefit from many of the within the crime victims field need services traditionally offered by resources and critical information to address the systemic barriers faced by domestic violence and sexual assault older victims seeking access to healing programs such as individual and peer counseling, support groups, emergency and transitional housing, and specialized economic and legal



### https://www.ncall.us/for-professionals/

### **For Trainers**

#### **For Trainers**

NCALL trainers are available to provide information to professionals and volunteers working in domestic violence and sexual assault programs, the aging services network, adult protective services, health care, the criminal and civil justice systems, faith communities, and other organizations. Staff are available for both in-person and online trainings. For more information about trainer availability and fees, please <u>contact NCALL</u>.

Should you want to conduct your own trainings, we've created The Trainers' Toolkit, which features new and redesigned resources for trainers, including PowerPoint slide sets, interactive training exercises, and training modules. Trainers may use these components to create or enhance their own abuse in later life training.

We also encourage you to visit our <u>Video Library</u> and YouTube channel to find video clips featuring survivors and subject matter experts discussing topics related to elder abuse and abuse in later life. These clips may be used in conjunction with your trainings.

#### Trainers' Toolkit

PowerPoint Slide Sets	+
Interactive Training Exercises	+
Training of Trainers Modules	+



### https://www.ncall.us/for-trainers/

## NCALL Video Library

Charlotte and Howard: Financial Exploitation by a Befriender



Donna: Coercive Control and

Intimate Partner Violence

Leonard and Meneleo: Financial Exploitation by Strangers

Linda: Sexual Assault by a Neighbor

Mariana: Financial Exploitation by a Befriender

Jewel: Intimate Partner Violence

including Economic Abuse





Mary Ann: Stalking in Later Life by Mary Lou: Intimate Partner Violence in Later Life

Tammy: Sexual and Physical Abuse in an Intimate Partner Relationship



an Acquaintance







### https://www.ncall.us/video-library

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## NCALL YouTube Channel





https://www.youtube.com/@ncall

### **Awareness/Outreach Materials**





https://www.ncall.us/resources/graphics-library/

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### Staying Connected to NCALL



Find us online: <u>www.ncall.us</u> Send us an email: <u>ncall@ncall.us</u>

Sign up for our e-newsletter:





### **NCALL Contact Information**

Kristin Burki Director <u>kburki@ncall.us</u>



Ann Laatsch Justice System Coordinator alaatsch@ncall.us

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# Thank you!

