



The NYS Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to Elderly Persons Law Enforcement Toolkit is designed to provide guidance, investigative tools, and resources to law enforcement officers in identifying and responding to elder abuse.

In New York State elder abuse is considered to be any type abuse (physical, sexual, emotional, neglect or financial exploitation) of a vulnerable older adult and may be perpetrated either by persons known to the victim, or by strangers. One out of 10 people ages 60 and older who live at home experience some form of elder abuse in their later years, however due to the multidimensional aspects of their abuse it is often difficult for law enforcement to detect and act accordingly. The information provided below will assist law enforcement with identifying, investigating and preventing elder abuse.

Forms of Elder Abuse

Older adults may experience different forms of abuse such as physical, sexual, emotional, financial or neglect by self or others. A complete Elder Abuse Guide for Law Enforcement can be found online by clicking [here](#) to assist officers with their understanding and initial response to elder abuse. Additional resources, such as sample protocols for responding to elder abuse and informational brochures on elder abuse can be downloaded [here](#).

Investigations

Law enforcement plays a crucial role in recognizing and investigating cases of elder abuse. To assist officers with their information gathering and investigation, a variety of resources including investigative checklists for the initial response and evidence gathering which are accessible by clicking [here](#). Additional information including an overview of power of attorney law is also available.

Legal Resources

As part of an ongoing Elder Abuse investigation it is important to law enforcement to be aware of relevant case law and appropriate legal charges, if applicable. Please click [here](#) for a listing of legal resources and related family offenses. Penal law statutes specific to New York in relation to elder abuse can be reviewed by clicking this [link](#).

Training

Training opportunities and resources are available for law enforcement on issues involving older persons including roll call videos, online trainings and elder abuse training manuals. Training opportunities are available by clicking the following [link](#).

Community Resources

When addressing elder abuse in the community, one of the best ways to combat abuse is to educate the older community on prevention strategies. Law enforcement resources for the community such as informational brochures on scams, elder abuse or financial exploitation and other documents suitable for dissemination can be found [here](#).



Additional Information and Resources

The information below provides links to agencies or resources available to law enforcement to assist victims or family members involved in elder abuse cases.

NYS Missing Persons Clearinghouse – <http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/missing/who-we-are.html>

- The Missing Persons Clearinghouse is staffed by professionals with extensive experience handling missing person cases. They support law enforcement officials investigating cases involving children under 21, college students and vulnerable adults, including those with Alzheimer's and dementia who have gone missing.

NYS Office for the Aging - <https://aging.ny.gov/>

- The New York State Office for the Aging's (NYSOFA's) home and community-based programs provide older persons access to a well-planned, coordinated package of in-home and other supportive services designed to support and supplement informal care.

NYS Office of Child and Family Services Bureau of Adult Services - <https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/bureau-of-adult-services.asp>

- The New York State Office of Children and Family Services, through the Bureau of Adult Services, is responsible for the oversight of the Adult Protective Services and the Family Type Home for Adults programs. Contact information for local Adult Protective Services offices is available at the following link <https://www.ocfs.ny.gov/main/psa/local-APS-intake.asp> A Family-Type Home for Adults (FTHA) is an adult care facility in which an operator provides residential care, personal care and/or supervision services, to four or fewer adults who are not related to the operator. Additional information on FTHA's is available here <https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/ftha/> .

NYS Office of Victim Services - <https://ovs.ny.gov/>

- New York State Office of Victim Services can provide compensation to innocent victims of crime for their out-of-pocket losses associated with the crime and may be able to assist with medical bills and counseling expenses; burial and funeral costs; lost wages; and other types of assistance.

NY Connects - <https://www.nyconnects.ny.gov/>

- NY Connects provides free, unbiased information about long term services and supports in New York State for people of all ages or with any type of disability.

US Department of Justice – Elder Justice Initiative - <https://www.justice.gov/elderjustice>

- The mission of the Elder Justice Initiative is to support and coordinate the Department's enforcement and programmatic efforts to combat elder abuse, neglect and financial fraud and scams that target our nation's seniors.

Project Lifesaver - <https://projectlifesaver.org/>

- Project Lifesaver International is a non-profit organization that provides law enforcement and caregivers with technology designed to protect, and when necessary, quickly locate individuals with cognitive disorders who are prone to the life-threatening behavior of wandering. The New York State Missing Persons Clearinghouse has partnered with Project Lifesaver to provide this tracking technology to law enforcement agencies throughout the state. A list of participating agencies is available [here](#).

New York State District Attorneys

- The local district attorney's office is available to assist law enforcement with the prosecution of elder abuse cases. Click the link [here](#) for county district attorney contact information.