



KERN COUNTY ELDER NEWS

Monthly Information Article | Kern County DEAR/EDRT TEAM*

*(Dependent/Elder Abuse Review) Team/EDRT (Elder Death Review Team)



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WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH



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Designed and Managed By:
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June marks **World Elder Abuse Awareness Month**, a time to bring visibility to one of the most pressing, yet underreported topics: elder abuse. Among its various forms, financial elder abuse is both alarmingly common and devastatingly underrecognized. It is estimated that only 1 in 44 victims self-report financial abuse and the painful truth is that most financial elder abuse is committed by someone the victim knows and trusts, such as family members, caregivers, or legal representatives. Abuse can range from stolen bank cards and manipulated wills to coerced real estate transfers or devastating online scams.

To bring awareness to the topic of elder abuse here in Kern County, June has been declared Elder Abuse Awareness Month and on June 12, 2025, Kern County Adult Protective Services will be holding their 26th Annual Elder Abuse Conference, "Elder Money Matters".

Adult Protective Services (APS) investigates elder (60+) and dependent (18-59) adult abuse. According to Justice in Aging, it is predicted that by 2030, older adults will make up one-quarter of California's population. In Kern County, approximately 16% of the current population is aged 60 or older.

Elder abuse falls into two basic categories - abuse by others and self-neglect. Within each of these categories, there are several types of abuse.

Abuse by others include:

- Physical (e.g. assault/battery, constraint or deprivation, chemical restraint, over/under medication)
- Sexual
- Financial
- Abandonment
- Neglect (including deprivation of goods and services by a care custodian)
- Isolation
- Abduction
- Psychological/Mental
- Other

Agency Partners

- Bakersfield Police Department
- California Dept. of Financial Protection & Innovation
- California Dept. of Insurance
- CSUB
- Dept. of Social Services Licensing
- GBLA
- Independent Living Center of KC
- Kaiser Permanente
- Kern Co. Aging & Adult
- Kern Co. BHRS
- Kern Co. Coroner
- Kern Co. District Attorney
- Kern Co. DA Victim Services
- Kern Co. Family Law Facilitator
- Kern Co. Public Health
- Kern Regional Center
- Kern Co. Sheriff's Office
- Kern Co. Veterans Service Dept.
- Social Security Admin.
- Strata Credit Union



Self-neglect includes:

- Neglect of Physical Care (e.g. personal hygiene, food, clothing, malnutrition/dehydration)
- Self-Neglect of Residence (unsafe environment)
- Financial Self-Neglect (e.g. inability to manage one's own personal finances)

To report elder or dependent adult abuse:

- Call Toll Free 24 hours a day (800) 277-7866
- Or (661) 868-1006
- Or submit your concerns online by going to: <https://tinyurl.com/mrypjdsp>

To report incidents of abuse that occur in licensed facilities please contact the Long-Term Care Ombudsman:

- 24 hour crisis line (800) 231-4024 or (800) 735-2529
- Or (661) 323-7884

This World Elder Abuse Awareness Month, let's reaffirm our collective responsibility to protect the dignity, autonomy, and financial security of older adults. Whether you're a policymaker, caregiver, or neighbor, you have a role to play in breaking the silence around elder financial abuse because growing older should never mean becoming more vulnerable to exploitation.

Financial elder abuse is preventable but only with awareness, vigilance, and systems designed to protect older adults. Here are a few key steps for all of us:

- Educate seniors and families about common scams and digital fraud
- Encourage open conversations about finances and boundaries
- Support legislation that strengthens elder protection services and penalties for abuse
- Report suspected abuse to Adult Protective Services

REGISTER NOW **ANNUAL ELDER ABUSE CONFERENCE**

Join us in the fight to stop elder abuse! Registration is still being accepted through June 3, 2025, for the Annual Elder Abuse Conference at The Woman's Club of Bakersfield. The cost is \$65.00 per person which includes morning muffins, buffet-style lunch, and afternoon cookies all catered by Hodel's County Dining, and most importantly, amazing speakers on the topic of elder abuse with this year's focus on financial elder abuse. Register by visiting: <https://tinyurl.com/2y3mdyea>

Scan Here to
Register

