

**Request your copy of the
ILCSC Senior Resource Guide!**



ILC Independent Living Center of
Southern California

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*Serving Glendale, Burbank, San Fernando
Valley, Santa Clarita, Lancaster and
Northern Los Angeles County*

Website: www.ilcsc.org

**Elder Abuse
RED FLAGS**



ILC Independent Living Center of
Southern California

Van Nuys—818.988.9525 TTY: 818.988.3533

Lancaster—661.942.9726 TTY: 661.723.2509



Your Path to Independence!



Signs and Symptoms of Elder Abuse May Include:

- Injuries, such as bruises, cuts or broken bones
- Malnourishment or weight loss
- Poor hygiene
- Symptoms of anxiety, depression or confusion
- Unexplained transactions or lack of money
- Withdrawal from family members or friends

Article:

<https://www.nursinghomeabusecenter.com/elder-abuse/signs/>



**Content provided in this booklet is for informational purposes only.*

Institutional Elder Abuse (Continued)

- Your loved one has unexplained broken bones, dislocations, bruises, scratches that may be a result of rough handling during transfers, repositioning, force feeding and medicine administration. Evidence of inadequate care when bills are paid in full.
- Your loved one is dehydrated or malnourished with sudden weight loss, dry mouth, cracked lips, swollen tongue, reduced urine output, and weak due to withholding of adequate food and fluids or lack of help with feeding.

Article:

<https://www.carepathways.com/articles/signs-of-elderly-neglect-or-abuse-in-nursing-home.cfm>

*Since 1976, the **Independent Living Center of Southern California, Inc.***

***(ILCSC)**, a 501 (c)(3) consumer-based, non-residential non-profit agency, has provided a wide range of services to people with all disabilities, including older adults and veterans. Mission Statement: The ILCSC is dedicated to providing the services which offer the opportunity to seek an individual course towards independence—while educating the community. We invite you to contact us if you need additional information. 818.785.6934*

This booklet is designed to provide information on the recognized warning signs of elder abuse.*

**An older adult exhibiting any symptoms listed in this booklet should be reported to the proper authorities for possible investigation...*

ELDER ABUSE HOTLINE—(877) 477-3646



Physical Abuse Warning Signs

- Unexplained signs of injury, such as bruises, welts, scars; especially if they appear symmetrically on two sides of the body.
- Broken bones, sprains or dislocations.
- A report of drug overdose or an apparent failure to take medication regularly (a prescription has more remaining than it should).
- Broken eyeglasses or frames.
- Signs of being restrained, such as rope marks on wrists.
- Caregiver's refusal to allow you to see the elder alone.

Institutional Elder Abuse

- Your loved one is more confused, disoriented, drowsy or sleeping all the time due to medication overdose or unmonitored adverse side effects.
- Your loved one has become incontinent due to unavailable help with toileting and if already wearing disposable briefs for incontinence has skin breakdown in diaper area from sitting in urine and feces.
- Your loved one has become immobile or has more difficulty getting around due to lack of assistance with daily walking and regular exercise programs.
- Your loved one has poor personal hygiene, including smelling of urine and feces, wearing dirty clothes, body odor, unwashed hair, overgrown nails due to lack of basic personal care, bathing and toileting. (Continued...)

Healthcare

Fraud or Abuse Warning Signs

- Duplicate billings for the same medical service or device.
- Evidence of overmedication or under-medication.
- Evidence of inadequate care when bills are paid in full.
- Problems with the care facility: poorly trained, poorly paid, or insufficient staff; crowding; inadequate responses to questions about care.

Article:

<https://www.helpguide.org/articles/abuse/elder-abuse-and-neglect.htm>

Emotional Abuse Warning Signs

- Threatening, belittling, or controlling caregiver behavior.
- Behavior from the elder that mimics dementia, such as rocking, suckling, or mumbling to themselves.

Sexual Abuse Warning Signs

- Bruises around the breasts or genitals.
- Unexplained vaginal or anal bleeding.
- Torn, stained, or bloody clothing.

Elder Neglect or Self-Neglect Warning Signs

- Unusual weight loss, malnutrition, dehydration.
- Untreated physical problems, such as bed sores.
- Unsanitary living conditions: dirt, bugs, soiled bedding and clothes.
- Being left dirty or unbathed.
- Unsuitable clothing or covering for the weather.
- Unsafe living conditions (no heat or running water, faulty electrical wiring, other fire hazards).
- Desertion of the elder at a public place.

Financial Exploitation Warning Signs

- Significant withdrawals from the elder's accounts.
- Sudden changes in the elder's financial condition.
- Items or cash missing from the elder's household.
- Suspicious changes in wills, power of attorney, titles and policies.
- Addition of names to the elder's signature card.
- Financial activity the elder couldn't have undertaken, such as an ATM withdrawal, when the account holder is bedridden.
- Unnecessary services, goods, or subscriptions.