Nevada Legal Services

Senior Law Project Digest

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June is Elder Abuse Awareness Month

Described as the "crime of the 21st century," elder abuse has been broadly defined as "a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person." June is the month dedicated to raising awareness for abuse of the elderly.

A startling number of elders face abusive situations. Every year an estimated 5 million, or 1 in 10, older Americans are victims of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation. And that's only part of the picture: Experts believe that for every case of elder abuse or neglect reported; as many as 23.5 cases go unreported.



Elder abuse and neglect and take on various forms. It can be physical, emotional/verbal, sexual, financial, neglect by a caregiver, or self-neglect. Elder abuse can occur anywhere – in the home, in nursing homes, or other institutions. It affects seniors across all socioeconomic groups, cultures, and races.

June is a reminder and opportunity for communities around the world to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older persons by raising awareness of the cultural, social, economic and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect.

We all need to become more aware of signs when vulnerable people are mistreated.



Senior Legal Helpline Toll Free: (877) 693-2163 Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Nevada Legal Services, Inc., is a non-profit organization providing free legal assistance to low-income Nevadans. Nevada Legal Services is dedicated to strengthening the community by ensuring fairness and providing equal access to justice for low-income Nevadans. We are a statewide organization serving all seventeen Nevada counties.

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