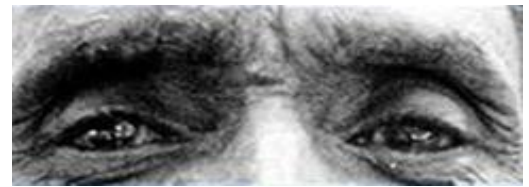


# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ELDER ABUSE



Information to inform you about Elder Abuse & At-Risk Adults

**Marietta Police Department**  
"Policing with a Vision"  
Chief Dan Flynn

## Types of Abuse and the Warning Signs

### Physical

- Bruises, black eyes, welts, lacerations and rope marks
- Broken bones, open wounds, cuts, punctures and/or untreated injuries
- Sprains, dislocations, and internal injuries/bleeding
- Physical signs of being a subject of punishment, signs of being restrained
- At-risk adult's report of being hit, slapped, kicked, or mistreated
- At-risk adult's sudden change in behavior
- Caregiver's refusal to allow visitors to see the at-risk adult alone

### Sexual

- Bruises or bleeding near sensitive/private areas
- Torn, stained, or bloody underclothing
- Unexplained sexually transmitted diseases
- Becoming upset when bathed, changed or examined
- An at-risk's report of being sexually assaulted or raped

### Neglect

- Dehydration, malnutrition, untreated bed sores, and poor personal hygiene
- Unattended/untreated health problems
- Hazardous/unsafe living conditions (ex: bad wiring, no heat, no running water, etc.)
- Unsanitary/unclean living conditions
- At-risk adult's report of being mistreated

### Emotional

- Being extremely withdrawn and non-communicative
- Unusual behavior usually attributed to dementia (ie: sucking, biting, rocking)
- An at-risk adult's report of being verbally or emotionally mistreated

### Financial

- Sudden changes in bank account or banking practice
- The inclusion of additional names on at-risk adult's bank signature card
- Unauthorized withdrawals of the at-risk adult's funds using via ATM card
- Abrupt changes in a will or other financial documents
- Unexplained disappearance of funds or valuable possessions

## THE LAW

### The Disabled Adults & Elders Persons Protection Act” & “The Long-Term Care Facility Resident Abuse Reporting Act”

Provide for the reporting of abuse, neglect or exploitation to various agencies such as Adult Protective Services, Healthcare Facility Regulation and local law enforcement or prosecuting attorneys. Per O.C.G.A. 30-5-8 and 31-5-8, a failure to report could result in arrest and prosecution.

## CONTACTS FOR REPORTING ELDER ABUSE

### Adult Protective Services (APS)

1-866-55AGING (1-866-522-4464)

<https://aging.georgia.gov/report-elder-abuse>

### Healthcare Facility Regulation (HFR)

1-800-878-6442

### Marietta Police Department

(770) 794-5300

**ALWAYS CALL 911 FOR LIFE - THREATENING EMERGENCIES**

## What is an **At-Risk Adult**?

- **Disabled Adult**- Persons 18 years of age or older who is mentally or physically incapacitated or has Alzheimer’s disease or dementia.
- **Elder Person**- Person 65 years of age or older.



## WHEN TO REPORT?

Having reasonable cause to believe that a disabled adult or elder person has had a physical injury or injuries inflicted upon them, has been confined, has been deprived of treatment or care, or has been exploited financially. The report may be made by oral or written communication.

## WHO MUST REPORT?

- Hospital or medical personnel
- Doctors and interns
- Dentists, psychologists and podiatrists
- Nurses and nurse’s aides
- Counselors and social workers
- EMT, EMS, paramedics and first responders
- Social workers
- School teachers, counselors and administrators
- Law enforcement, coroners and medical examiners
- Day-care personnel
- Physical and occupational therapists
- Child welfare agency personnel
- Public or private agency employees engaged in professional health services
- Clergy (except confession)
- Any employee of a financial institution or investment company

