



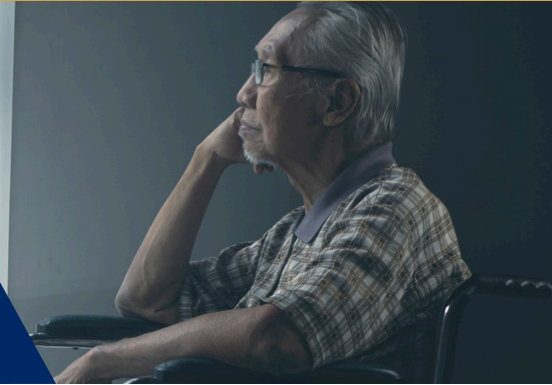
KERN COUNTY ELDER NEWS

Monthly Information Article | Kern County DEAR/EDRT TEAM*

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

JUNE 2024

ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH



By:



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Enjoying the 'Good Life'

Do you ever think of retirement and think how great it will be not working and just enjoying the 'good life'? Or maybe you are already there, and hopefully, you are already living the good life. Unfortunately, not everyone will be able to enjoy that experience. Many of us will develop physical or mental deficits that will make us more vulnerable to neglect or self-neglect. The U.S. Justice Department notes that caregiver neglect is the most underreported type of abuse, with only 1 out of every 57 cases being reported. Neglect is also one of the most common types of elder abuse.

Fortunately, there are things we can do now to help prevent neglect in the future. Some of those things include:

- Taking care of your health now.

- Keeping in touch with friends, family, neighbors - the more eyes on you, the more chances that one of those people will speak up if they see something fishy is happening.
- Staying active in your community.
- Planning for your future and making your wishes known while you still can (Example: completing an advanced health care directive, setting up a trust, etc.).
- Realizing now that there may come a time when you will need to accept help, and come to terms with that thought early on, even if you are in great health right now.
- Don't be afraid to reach out for help and don't be afraid to speak up if someone is abusing you!

Adult Protective Services (APS) investigates elder (60+) and dependent (18-59) adult abuse.

According to Justice in Aging, as of March 2023, approximately 20% of Californians are age 60 or older and it is predicted that by 2030, older adults will make up one-quarter of California's population. In Kern County, there are approximately 159,000 folks that are aged 60 or



Agency Partners

- Bakersfield Police Department
- 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

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
- Neglect (including deprivation of goods and services by a care custodian)
- Abandonment
- Isolation
- Abduction
- Psychological/Mental
- Other

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: kerncounty.com/government/aging-adult-services

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 (661) 323-7884



The poster features a yellow and purple background with a diagonal banner showing three elderly people's faces. The banner text reads 'KNOW ABUSE ELDER AND DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE REPORT ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH'. The main title is '25th Annual Elder Abuse Prevention Conference' in green and white. The date and time are 'JUNE 13, 2024 8AM - 4:30PM'. The location is 'DOUBLETREE BY HILTON 3100 Camino Del Rio Bakersfield, CA 93308'. The theme is '"Preventing and Recognizing Neglect"' with a keynote speaker 'Merlyna Valentine'. Registration details are provided: '\$55 Early Registration now through 05/20/2024' and '\$65 05/21/2024 through 06/03/2024'. A 'Register Now!' button with a hand cursor and the text 'click Here' is prominent. Contact information includes 'MORE INFORMATION, CALL +1 661 868 1052' and 'ENQUIRIES, WRITE juarezlau@kerncounty.com'.

Register NOW for the 25th Annual Elder Abuse Conference

To bring awareness to the topic of elder abuse, June has been declared Elder Abuse Awareness Month and Kern County Adult Protective Services will be holding their **25th Annual Elder Abuse Conference**, "Preventing & Recognizing Neglect".

Date: Thursday, June 13, 2024
Time: 8:00am - 4:30pm
Location: Double Tree by Hilton (3100 Camino Del Rio Ct, Bakersfield, CA 93308)

Join us in the fight to stop elder abuse! **Registration is still being accepted through June 3, 2024.** The cost is \$65.00 per person which includes morning muffins, lunch, cookies and brownies, raffles, and great presenters!

Payment needs to be submitted by check or cash to Aging and Adult Services. NO REFUNDS - substitutions allowed.

Make checks payable to: Kern County Aging and Adult Services Department. (sorry, credit cards not accepted)

Mail Registration Form and Payment to: Aging and Adult Services
Attn: Laura Juarez
5357 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93309

To access the digital Registration Form, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/mwm7ypnk>

For information call 661-868-1052 or email juarezlau@kerncounty.com.