

# Abuse in Later Life

Abuse in later life (ALL) is the willful abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation of an older adult by someone in an ongoing relationship (e.g., spouse, partner, family member, or caregiver) with the victim.

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## Dynamics of Abuse

At its core, domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior that one person uses to gain power and control over someone else. When abuse occurs in later life, perpetrators often coerce or manipulate victims to obtain some benefit for themselves, such as money, a place to stay, access to prescription medication, or sexual gratification.



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## Important Facts

1. Abusers often change their tactics as victims grow older, reducing the frequency of physical violence and instead controlling their partners through economic coercion, psychological abuse, and verbal threats that deeply affect older victims' physical and mental well-being.
2. Many older adults experience social isolation due to the loss of family or friends, health conditions, or the increased likelihood of living alone in later life. This can allow an abuser's use of isolation as a tactic of control to go unnoticed.
3. Older victims may be abused by intimate partners, adult children, grandchildren, or other family members, caregivers, or persons in positions of authority. In the majority of abuse in later life cases, the perpetrator is the victim's family member or intimate partner.

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## Need Help?

Peace at Home Family Shelter is here to help survivors of domestic violence find safety.

Our services are free and available to survivors of all ages, racial and gender identities, and sexual orientations.

## Contact Us

### 24-Hour Crisis Hotline

(479) 442-9811

### 24-Hour Help Email

[help@peaceathomeshelter.com](mailto:help@peaceathomeshelter.com)