

Elgin County Community Response to Elder Abuse

Elgin County seniors and service providers are committed to working together to address abuse of older adults. As a result of a collaborative effort over many years, the following mechanisms have been put in place to support a community wide response:

- **Elder Abuse Elgin** – Meets quarterly to work with existing services to make Elgin County a place where older adults can live free from any form of abuse. For more information about the activities of the committee or to become a member, please email us at elderabuseelgin@gmail.com
- **Case Consultation Committee** – a multidisciplinary group of professionals that provide consultation on complex cases of suspected elder abuse. To present a case, service providers or concerned individuals contact the Consultation Committee chair, Kathy Kinsella at (519) 870-0610 kkinsell2020@gmail.com
- **Senior Safety Line in partnership with Elder Abuse Ontario** – Trained and caring staff are available in a confidential setting to listen, support and assist senior callers or anyone concerned about a senior with a variety of issues including abuse.
24/7 in 150 languages **1-866-299-1011**
- **Speakers Bureau** – Speakers for community presentations; participation in community displays; resource materials. If you would like to request a speaker please contact us at elderabuseelgin@gmail.com

Please remember:

Elder abuse is the responsibility of our community as a whole, and in Elgin we are committed to a collaborative response to identify and eliminate the mistreatment of older adults.

Elder Abuse Elgin (EAE) Community Partners

- ✓ Alzheimer Society of Elgin-St. Thomas
- ✓ Canadian Association of Retired Persons
- ✓ Canadian Mental Health Association
- ✓ Central Community Health Centre
- ✓ Community Seniors & volunteers
- ✓ East Elgin Family Health Team
- ✓ Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario (EAPO)
- ✓ Elgin County Homes
- ✓ Elgin County Library
- ✓ Elgin County OPP
- ✓ Gunn & Associates
- ✓ Home & Community Care Support Services – South West
- ✓ Mennonite Community Services
- ✓ Ontario Ministry of Seniors & Accessibility
- ✓ OPP Veterans Association
- ✓ Registered Nurses Association of Ontario
- ✓ Retired Teachers of Ontario
- ✓ Southwest Public Health – St. Thomas Unit
- ✓ St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital
- ✓ St. Thomas-Elgin Social Services
- ✓ St. Thomas Police Services
- ✓ Victim/Witness Assistance Program
- ✓ Victim Services Elgin
- ✓ Violence Against Women Services Elgin County
- ✓ VON – Elgin Branch
- ✓ West Elgin Community Health Centre

Seniors Have Rights

A senior, like all capable adults, has the right to make his or her own decisions, based on his or her own values and beliefs.

Adults have the right to:

1. Basic requirements for life: to be guaranteed food, shelter, clothing, health care and social interaction
2. Autonomy/self-determination: to live life as they wish and control their affairs to the full extent of their ability
3. Safety and protection: to live their lives free from abuse
4. Freedom: to accept or refuse assistance, intervention or medical treatments, and to live at risk, provided they are competent to choose and do not harm others
5. Privacy: to share only that which they wish to share
6. Confidentiality: to be assured information, which becomes known about them, will only be shared with other professionals after providing informed consent
7. Dignity and Respect: to have their dignity and information respected
8. Access to Information: to be able to access the information necessary to make meaningful and informed choices; and to be fully informed about their civil and legal rights