



ELGIN ELDER ABUSE
Resource Committee

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 please email us at elderabuseelgin@gmail.com
- **Seniors Safety Line** - 24 hour crisis and support line for seniors in Ontario, *operated by the Assaulted Women's Help Line*. Trained and caring counsellors are available to listen, support, and help navigate difficult situations by providing information and referrals and safety planning for seniors who have experienced any type of abuse or neglect. The SSL also assists anyone concerned about a senior with a variety of issues, including abuse.
24/7/365 days a year, in over 200 languages
1-866-299-1011
- **Speakers Bureau** – Speakers for presentations and training, community-wide workshops as well as resource materials. If you would like to request a speaker or training session for your organization/agency, 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.

Community Partners

- ✓ Alzheimer Society of Elgin-St. Thomas
- ✓ Canadian Association for Retired Persons
- ✓ Canadian Mental Health Association
- ✓ Central Community Health Centre
- ✓ Community Seniors & volunteers
- ✓ East Elgin Family Health Team
- ✓ Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario
- ✓ Elgin County Homes and Senior Services
- ✓ Elgin County OPP
- ✓ Elgin-Oxford Legal Clinic
- ✓ Gunn & Associates
- ✓ Home and Community Care Support Services – South West
- ✓ Mennonite Community Services
- ✓ Ontario Ministry for Seniors & Accessibility
- ✓ OPP Veterans Association Chapter #2
- ✓ 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
- ✓ St. Thomas Times Journal
- ✓ 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.