



Issue 2 ❖ June 2017

Links for more information:

Adult Protective Services assist vulnerable and elder adults to stop and prevent abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Anyone can make a report about suspected abuse to the Hotline.

Adult Abuse Hotline
(800) 352-6513

Home Health Agency Hotline
(800) 442-2888

http://www.wvdhhr.org/bcf/children_adult/aps/report.asp

What information do I need to provide when calling for help?

Type of abuse or neglect suspected

Is victim in imminent danger?

Location of the victim and caregivers?

Is there a protective caregiver present?

Does the alleged perpetrator have access to the victim?

General functioning of victim and caregivers?

Any safety threats for first responders?

A Publication of the Presbytery of West Virginia



Elder Abuse in WV

Elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation can happen to any senior. There are victims among all communities, income levels, races, and religions. Every senior has a right to live free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. There is no excuse for harming a senior, it is a crime, though often a hidden one.

West Virginia has an estimated elder population of 393,061. There are an average of 43,416 reported cases of abuse in WV each year. 11% of our elders in WV experience abuse of some kind. Elder abuse is a general term used to describe harmful acts toward an elderly adult, such as physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, financial exploitation, and neglect, including self-neglect.



Nursing Home Abuse

West Virginia nursing home laws and regulations are designed to quell the cases of abuse and neglect throughout the state. They are handled through the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources as well as the West Virginia State Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

Resident Rights

All residents of nursing homes, according to West Virginia nursing home laws and regulations, have certain rights. They include the right to:

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- Be treated with respect, individuality and dignity.
- Be informed of services and fees of the nursing home.
- To manage their own money or to set up a trust with someone else.
- To have privacy and to keep personal belongings and properties.
- The right to be informed about medical conditions & needed medications.
- The right to have a say in scheduling.
- The right to an environment that is as much like home as possible.



These rights are designed to ensure residents are given the respect and care that they deserve.

West Virginia nursing home laws and regulations are designed to combat the problems of abuse that occur all too often in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. If you have a loved one in a nursing home and you believe their rights are being violated or they are being abused or even neglected, then it is important that you report it as soon as possible. Additionally, it may be a good idea to go ahead and contact an attorney as well. Your loved one does not deserve to continue suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation no matter the case.

Resources:

http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/Resources/Publication/docs/LTCF_ResearchBrief_web508.pdf

<http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/library/data/>

https://www.wvdhhr.org/bcf/children_adult/aps/report.asp

What's happening in our Presbytery?

Beckley Presbyterian hosts a wonderful ministry to older adults in the form of "The Shepherd's Center." They meet once a week on Tuesdays, September through June, from 9:00am to 12:00 noon. Lunch is served at 12:00 noon and costs \$3.00. Membership is \$20 a year, or \$7.00 per quarter.

What do they do at the meetings? After coffee and conversation at 9am, various activities and classes are scheduled and taught by volunteers. Depending on the members' interests, classes are added or changed as needed. They also offer a Blood Pressure Clinic.

Some of the classes and activities they have offered are: Exercise, Art and Painting, Line Dancing, Square and Round Dancing, Needle Crafts and Quilting, Bible Study, Beginning Computer Instruction, Life Enrichment, Singing, Travelogues, Crafts, and Photography/Developing.

The program is always open to the whole community.

