



*California's Protection & Advocacy System
Toll-Free (800) 776-5746*

Reporting Abuse of an Elder or Adult with Disability

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You have special protections if you are an adult with disability or an elder who has been abused, neglected, or targeted for a crime because of your disability.

1. What is abuse? [Click on this link to find out what abuse can be](#)
2. What is neglect? [Click on this link to find out what neglect can be](#)
3. What is a crime? [Click on this link to find out what a crime can be](#)

Who should I call?

If you live in the community, such as in your own home, a hotel, or are getting care in a hospital, clinic or training program, you should contact:

- Your [local police department](#) or sheriff's department or 911.

And

- Your **County Adult Protective Services** (APS) agency. To find your [County](#) APS agency, click [here](#).

If you live in a facility, such as a group home, a nursing home, or residential facility (like assisted living or board and care home), you should contact:

- Your [local police department](#) or sheriff's department or 911.

And

- [The Long-Term Care Ombudsman \(LTCO\)](#). To find your Local Ombudsman Program, click [here](#) or call the state LTCO crisis phone number at 1-800-231-4024.

And

- [The California Department of Public Health](#) (DPH). DPH looks over health facilities and investigates complaints of abuse, neglect and bad care. The telephone number of your local office can be found by clicking [here](#).

And

- [The California Attorney General Bureau of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse](#) (BMFEA), which works to protect you from abuse or neglect in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities. To report abuse against you, contact the Attorney General's toll-free hotline at (800) 722-0432 or on the web by clicking [here](#).

Laws & Regulations

- [Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code §§ 15630-15632 Elder Abuse and Dependent Adult Abuse Civil Protection Act](#)
- [Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 15700 Protective Placements and Custody of Endangered Adults](#)
- [Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code §§ 15703-15705.40 Protective Services](#)
- [Cal. Pen. Code § 368 Crimes Against Elders and Dependent Adults](#)

What is Disability Rights California?

[Disability Rights California](#) is a non-profit organization that works to advocate and assist you with problems you may have relating to your disability. The services we can provide include:

1. Informing you about your legal, civil, and service rights;
2. Investigating complaints about physical abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect;
3. Representing people with disabilities in areas of education, discrimination, benefits, and occupation.

If you have any problems relating to your disability, you may contact one of our offices by calling **1-800-776-5746** or via the internet by clicking [here](#).

Definitions:

Abuse is:

Abuse can be 3 different things:

1. Physical:

Someone hurting your body on purpose

- For example: hitting, kicking, burning, biting, shaking, or using an object to hit you.
- You do not need to have a bruise or pain for you to be abused physically.

2. Sexual:

Someone touching your body where you are not comfortable on purpose

- Touching your private parts
- Touching you where you would wear a bathing suit
- Taking pictures of you when you are naked
- Touching themselves in front of you

3. Emotional:

Someone using words or non-physical ways to hurt you on purpose

- Threatening you with words
- Embarrassing you on purpose
- Calls you name
- Talks down to you
- Keeping you away from other people you want to see
- Keeping you away from doing things you enjoy
- Making threatening movements against you

Neglect is:

When someone who is supposed to care for you does not take care of your needs by, for example:

1. Not giving you enough food, clothing, or shelter
2. Not taking care of your physical and medical needs
3. Not cleaning you
4. Not giving you your medication
5. Not helping you move around

6. Not keeping an area clean so you can move around without falling

Crime is:

If someone is [abusing you](#) or [neglecting you](#) it **is a crime!!!**

A crime also includes a few more things such as:

1. Inappropriate use of physical restraint:
 - For example tying you up somewhere you cannot move from
 - Using any other thing to prevent you from moving
 - Grabbing or holding you so you cannot move
2. Inappropriate use of chemical restraint or medication:
 - For example giving you medications that make you drowsy or tired but that will not make you feel any better
3. Financial abuse:
 - For example when someone is taking your money or property without your permission
 - Someone in your family can still financially abuse you if they take your money or belongings without your permission, even if you are related.

Disability Rights California is funded by a variety of sources, for a complete list of funders, go to <http://www.disabilityrightsca.org/Documents/ListofGrantsAndContracts.html>.