



Diminished Capacity: What Every Financial Services Professional Should Know SEC Senior Summit

- The National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) was founded in 1989 and is the only national organization representing the interest of adult protective services programs, staff and the victims they serve
- NAPSA is committed to improving the quality and availability of protective services for adults with disabilities and elders who are abused, neglected, exploited and unable to protect their own interests
- Protective Services are services provided to adults with disabilities and elders who are victims of abuse, exploitation, and neglect by themselves and others
- Elders and persons with disabilities mistreatment and abuse occurs in many forms, including emotional, physical and sexual abuse, financial exploitation, abandonment, neglect by care providers, and self-neglect
- 90 % of the states provide protective services to adults with disabilities age 18 & older and to elders
- Only 2% of federal abuse/neglect dollars is spent on elder abuse. 91% is dedicated to child abuse and 7% to domestic violence.
- No federal funding is dedicated to adult protective services
- 25 years of Congressional hearings on elder abuse, yet no federal protection exists
- It is estimated that only 1 in 5 cases of elder abuse is ever reported, meaning that the majority of victims are suffering, often for years, because no one notices or cares to report the problem
- According to the Senate Special Committee on Aging, it is estimated that as many as 5 million older Americans are victims of some form of elder mistreatment each year
- According to one study, older adults who were mistreated were at 3x's greater risk of dying within the next decade than other non-abused elders, and the mortality rate for self-neglecting elders was 2x's that of persons not reported to protective services (Lachs, Williams, 1998)
- According to the 2004 Survey of State APS done for the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) there was a 19.7% increase in reports to APS programs compared to 2000.
- Financial exploitation cases are the fastest growing category of reports. (NCEA,2004)

- 80% of perpetrators are family members or someone in a relationship with the victim. (NCEA,2004)
- Adult Children are the most common perpetrator. (32.6% NCEA,2004)
- Women make up 2/3 of the victims. (NCEA,2004)
- Financial Institutions are permitted to report to APS and are mandated to report in some states.
- The exploitation does not have to rise to a criminal level to report.
- According to the Research Triangle Institute the population in the United States rose by 87% from 1950-2000. The 65+ population rose by 185% and the 85+ population rose by 635%.

RESOURCES

- To report suspected elder abuse, locate the appropriate adult protective services agency by calling the National Center on Elder Abuse at 800 877-1116, or visit www.ncea.aoa.gov
- National Adult Protective Service Association, NAPSA, www.apsnetwork.org.
- National Center on Elder Abuse
Can Bank Tellers Tell? By Sandra L. Hughes, J.D., of the American Bar Association for the National Center on Elder Abuse. 2003 www.ncea.aoa.gov/pdf/publication
- Stopseniorscams.org
- Financial Abuse Undue Influence. Scams, Frauds and Protection of Assets. Annotated Bibliography. November 2003. www.ncea.aoa.gov/ncearoot/main_site/library/cane/caneaspx
- BITS Fraud Protection Toolkit: Protecting the Elderly and Vulnerable from Financial Fraud and Exploitation, www.bitsinfo.org>Publications