



## ELDER ABUSE GLOSSARY

### AGEISM

Prejudice, discrimination, and stereotyping against someone based on his or her age. While it can refer to prejudice against younger persons, ageism, as the term is used by most researchers, typically refers to prejudice against older persons.<sup>1</sup>

### AUTONOMY

The ability of an individual to make decisions and engage in activities that reflect their own choices, values, and interests.<sup>2</sup>

### BELONGING

A fundamental human need—defined as the feeling of deep connection with social groups, physical places, and individual and collective experiences.<sup>3</sup>

### CAREGIVER

An individual, whether in a paid or unpaid position, who has regular responsibility for all or part of an older person's care.

### COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

The duty of the Jewish community, including individuals and organizations, to create a safe and healthy environment and be part of the effort to prevent and respond to elder abuse and support sacred aging.

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<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization (2021). Accessed July 2023 at <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/ageing-ageism>.

<sup>2</sup> Lothian, K. (2001). *Care of older people: Maintaining the dignity and autonomy of older people in the healthcare setting*. Accessed July 2023 at <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.322.7287.668>.

<sup>3</sup> Kelly-Ann Allen, Margaret L. Kern, Christopher S. Rozek, Dennis M. McNerney & George M. Slavich (2021) Belonging: a review of conceptual issues, an integrative framework, and directions for future research, *Australian Journal of Psychology*, 73:1, 87-102.

## ELDER ABUSE GLOSSARY

### CONNECTION

A relationship to other individuals, organizations, or activities; the creation and maintenance of interpersonal or social connection.

### CONSENT

An agreement to engage in an activity or to allow something to occur. Someone must have the capacity to provide consent. Consent is given freely without coercion or undue influence.

When consent pertains to sexual activity, there is no single legal definition of consent. Here are three main ways that states analyze consent in relation to sexual acts:<sup>4</sup>

- *Affirmative consent*: Did the person express overt actions or words indicating agreement for sexual acts?
- *Freely given consent*: Was the consent offered of the person's own free will, without being induced by fraud, coercion, violence, or threat of violence?
- *Capacity to consent*: Did the individual have the capacity, or legal ability, to consent?

### DIGNITY

Maintaining self-respect and being valued by others.<sup>5</sup>

### ELDER ABUSE

Physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, or neglect, abandonment, and/or financial exploitation of an older person by another person or entity, that occurs in any setting, either in a relationship where there is an expectation of trust and/or when an older person is targeted based on age or disability.<sup>6</sup> Also known as Abuse Later in Life.

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<sup>4</sup> RAINN (2020). *Legal Role of Consent*. Accessed July 2023 at <https://www.rainn.org/articles/legal-role-consent>.

<sup>5</sup> Supra, note 2 and Nordenfelt L. The varieties of dignity. *Health Care Anal* 2004; 12: 69–81; discussion 83–89.

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Department of Justice (July 2014). *Elder Abuse Justice Roadmap, About Elder Abuse*. Accessed July 2023 at [https://eldermistreatment.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/EJRP-Report\\_Final\\_July-2014.pdf](https://eldermistreatment.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/EJRP-Report_Final_July-2014.pdf).

## ELDER ABUSE GLOSSARY

### FINANCIAL ABUSE & EXPLOITATION

Someone illegally or improperly using an older person's money, assets, property, or belongings for themselves. This includes using an older adult's assets without consent, under false pretense, or through intimidation and/or manipulation.<sup>7</sup> Also known as economic abuse.

### LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY

Any living arrangement, whether regulated or licensed by the state or not, where older adults live together and receive support and care from people who are not related to them and who receive compensation for providing that care.<sup>8</sup> Also referred to as residential care, nursing home, or assisted living.

### NEGLECT

The failure of an individual responsible to provide care to meet the physical, social, or emotional needs of the older adult. Neglect can be intentional or unintentional.<sup>9</sup>

### OLDER PERSON

In reference to elder abuse, "older" ranges from 50+ to 80+, with the most common reference age 65 and older. The variance is based on the age at which one can access services or benefits, such as the Older Americans Act. Also referred to as senior or elder.

### PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical force that may cause pain, harm, physical injury, functional impairment, distress, or even death.<sup>10</sup> Physical abuse can also include use of physical or medical restraints.

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<sup>7</sup> National Institute of Aging (2020). *Elder Abuse*. Accessed July 2023 at <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/elder-abuse>.

<sup>8</sup> Administration for Community Living. *Glossary of Terms in the APS Guidelines*. Accessed July 2023 at [https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2020-05/ACL-Appendix\\_1.fin\\_508.pdf](https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2020-05/ACL-Appendix_1.fin_508.pdf) and Congressional Research Service (May 11, 2020). *Overview of Assisted Living Facilities*. Accessed July 2023 at <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF11544>

<sup>9</sup> Id.

<sup>10</sup> Id.

## ELDER ABUSE GLOSSARY

### RED FLAG

A signal, sign, or behavior that can indicate a problematic or abusive situation. Also referred to as an indicator or warning sign.

### RESILIENCY

The capacity to withstand, adapt, or recover from adversity, trauma, or significant sources of stress.<sup>11</sup>

### SELF-DETERMINATION

Assertion that all people have the right to direct their futures; have control over how, where, and with whom they live their lives; and have authority over the resources that support them.<sup>12</sup>

### SELF-NEGLECT

Any failure of an adult to take care of themselves that causes or is reasonably likely to cause serious physical, mental, or emotional damage or loss of assets.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> American Psychological Association, Resilience, Accessed July 2023 at <https://www.apa.org/topics/resilience> and Yang, Abigail, *Apprehending the Concept of Resilience: A Psychological Perspective on Resilience in Daily Life* Accessed July 2023 at <https://www.apa.org/ed/precollege/topps/daily-life-resilience.pdf#:~:text=The%20American%20Psychological%20Association%20%28APA%29%20%282012%29%20identify%20resilience,elaborated%20by%20stating%20that%20%E2%80%9Cbecoming%20more%20resilient%20not>.

<sup>12</sup> Connecticut Department of Developmental Services. *Connecticut Self-Determination Initiative*, Accessed July 2023 at <https://portal.ct.gov/DDS/SelfAdvocacySelfDetermination/Self-Determination-Fact-Sheets/Self-Determination-Principles>.

<sup>13</sup> Vancouver Coastal Health. *What is adult abuse & neglect?* Accessed July 2023 at <https://www.vch.ca/en/what-adult-abuse-neglect>.

## ELDER ABUSE GLOSSARY

### SEXUAL ABUSE

Any unwanted sexual contact of any kind. Also referred to as sexual assault, sexual misconduct, or sexual violence.<sup>14</sup>

### SPIRITUAL ABUSE

Coercion, control, or exploitation by another person in a spiritual context. It can come from a faith leader or a partner who uses spiritual or religious beliefs or doctrine to exert power over another. Spiritual abuse can -- but does not necessarily -- involve verbal, emotional, and/or physical violence.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Supra note 8.

<sup>15</sup>Psych Central (2023). *What Is Spiritual Abuse?* Accessed July 2023 at <https://psychcentral.com/health/spiritual-abuse>.