

The Rising Epidemic of Elder Abuse and Neglect

Elder Abuse

- ◇ **Most commonly as a form of spousal abuse where now the victim is over age 60 or 65**
- ◇ **Many caregivers are unwilling or incapable of caring for the elderly, with little if any training or background.**
- ◇ **Often elder abuse is a form of retribution abuse, “pay back” for a life of abuse when the child was young and defenseless.**

Contributing Factors to Elder Abuse

- ◆ **Increasing elder population, especially those over 85.**
- ◆ **A lower birth rate means fewer children to assist the elderly.**
- ◆ **Increasing financial concerns for the family.**
- ◆ **Increasing family mobility can mean the potential for less family support for the elderly.**
- ◆ **Elder care can last many years longer than child rearing.**
- ◆ **The elderly become more dependent with age and their care can become more demanding over time.**

Possible Signs of Elder Abuse and Neglect

- ⇒ **Injuries not treated, or treatment is delayed.**
- ⇒ **Personal belongings or valuables are missing.**
- ⇒ **Confinement.**
- ⇒ **Malnourishment.**
- ⇒ **Property or savings that are mismanaged or stolen.**
- ⇒ **Inadequate clothing or personal items when the family’s resources seem adequate.**