

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Disabled Persons Protection Commission

ABUSE			NEGLECT
PHYSICAL	SEXUAL	EMOTIONAL & VERBAL	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruises on several different surface areas • Bilateral bruises (e.g. top of shoulders, both sides of face, insides of thighs) • Bruises in various stages of healing (fresh and faded) • Multiple bruises, or bruises forming patterns or clusters • Bruise is shape/size of a familiar object (handprint, belt buckle) • Bruises repeatedly occur after certain events (home visits, staff visits) • Burns shaped like an object (e.g. iron, electric burner, cigarette) especially on soles of the feet, palms, back or buttocks • Scalding burns (skin blistering from hot water or from emersion in hot liquid) • Abrasions from rape or other restraints • Sprains, dislocations • Fracture or breaks to ribs, skull, arms and leg bones • Unexplained internal injuries • Injuries to mouth (chipped teeth, ulcers, tears/swelling from forced feeding) • Cuts, lacerations, puncture wounds • Human bite marks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torn clothing • Stained clothing • Stained bed/bedding • Difficulty walking • Difficulty sitting • Vaginal bleeding • Rectal bleeding • Itching or swelling in the genital area • Pain in the genital area • Bruising in the genital area • Bruising of the inner thighs • Incontinence • Pregnancy • Vaginal infections • Sexually transmitted diseases • HIV, AIDS • Extreme changes in behavior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screaming, shouting, yelling, • Cursing • Threatening violence • Name-calling • Belittling, degrading, humiliation • Making discriminatory remarks • Mimicking, cruel teasing • Telling lies • General harassment • Sexual harassment • Threatening withdrawal of food, shelter, care, clothes, possessions or necessary equipment • Using demeaning labels • Ridiculing culture or heritage • Using intimidating gestures or posture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient on Patient abuse • Dehydration • Malnutrition, constant hunger • Inadequate living conditions • Lack of supervision • Medical mismanagement (over-medicated, medications not given correctly) • Outdated/unmarked medications are present • Untreated medical or mental conditions • Evidence of poor hygiene • Decubiti (bedsores), skin rashes, lice • Lack of clothing, improperly clothed for weather conditions • Unattended physical, medical, mental conditions • Lack of needed adaptive aides: wheelchair, eye-glasses, hearing aide, walker, TTY, etc. • Exposed to hazardous/toxic materials • Personal safety is compromised • Restraining devices are evident
	FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forging the signature of individual on personal checks • Cashing checks (such as SSI or SSDI) for personal use • Obtaining and misusing bank books • Misleading individual by providing them with false information about living expenses • Withholding individual's funds • Individual complains that furniture, jewelry, credit cards, or other items are missing 		
	MISTREATMENT		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of medications or treatments, isolation or physical or chemical restraints which harms or creates a substantial likelihood of harm 		

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BEHAVIORAL INDICATORS OF ABUSE & NEGLECT

VICTIM MAY:

- Exhibit distrust of others
- Exhibit emotional outbursts
- Obsess, worry or appear anxious about her/his own performance
- Have low self-esteem or confidence
- Have a sudden loss of appetite
- Criticize caretaker constantly
- Curse, hit, scratch caregiver
- Request separation from caregiver
- Exhibit fear of the caregiver
- Exhibit fear of the dark, being alone, people, places or going home
- Cry easily, frequently
- Express feelings of hopelessness
- Want to die
- Exhibit stress-related illness
- Exhibit self-injurious behaviors
- Have nightmares or difficulty sleeping
- Be isolated from others
- Be emotionally withdrawn, detached
- Have startled response to movement
- Be incontinent, malodorous, unpleasant
- Be resistant to taking medication, being bathed, eating or allowing caregiver to provide care
- Abuse alcohol or other substances
- Have rapid physical deterioration
- Refuse offers of assistance
- Be fearful of intimacy and touch
- Be sexually promiscuous
- Exhibit aggressive, disruptive or delinquent behavior
- Express self-hate, self-blame, guilt or shame
- Be fearful of abandonment, rejection or retaliation
- Experience stunted growth and developmental delays
- Have attention and learning disorders
- Engage in destructive activities
- Learn passive/aggressive behaviors
- Adopt same behaviors as the abuser