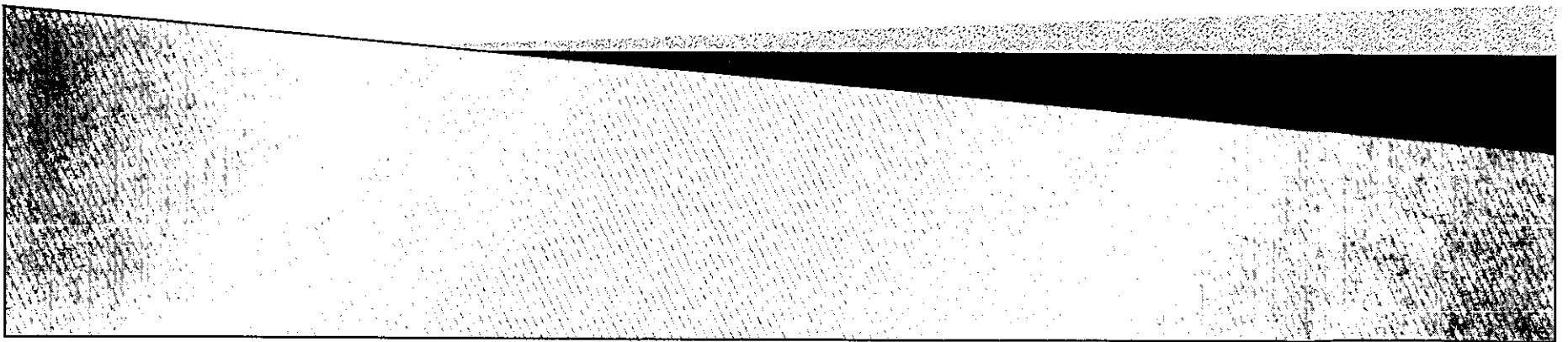
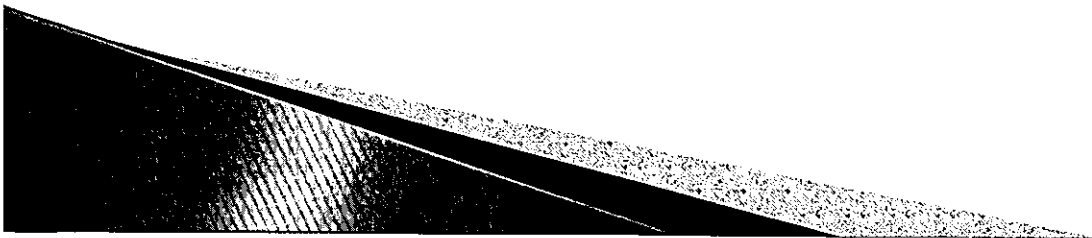


Abuse and
Neglect in the
Elderly
Community



Background Information

- ▶ Every year, elderly Americans are being abused either at home or in a facility. Learning the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect can prevent future abuse, and ensure the elderly are receiving proper care.



We Need Your Help!



- ▶ There are more than half a million reports of elderly abuse each year.
- ▶ For every case of abuse reported, there are 12 to 13 cases that go unreported.

You Can Help

- ▶ The law requires any person who believes that a child, or person 65 years or older, or an adult with disabilities is being abused, neglected, or exploited to report the circumstances to Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. A person making a report is immune from civil or criminal liability provided they make the report in good faith, and the name of the person making the report is kept confidential. Any person suspecting abuse and not reporting it can be held liable for a a misdemeanor or state jail felony. Time frames for investigating reports are based on severity of allegations.

Types of Abuse and Neglect

- ▶ Physical Abuse
- ▶ Sexual Abuse
- ▶ Emotional Abuse
- ▶ Financial Exploitation
- ▶ Healthcare Fraud and Abuse
- ▶ Neglect of caregivers or self-neglect



Physical Abuse

- ▶ Physical Abuse is the use of force to inflict pain. Signs of physical abuse are:
 - Bruises
 - Scars
 - Signs of being restrained on wrists
 - Broken or dislocated bones
 - Sprains

Sexual Abuse

- ▶ Sexual Abuse includes unwanted physical sex, but also includes forcing a patient to watch pornographic material or watching them undress.
 - Physical abuse
 - Bruises around breast or genitals
 - Unexplained venereal diseases
 - Torn, stained, or bloody underclothing

Emotional Abuse

- Emotional Abuse is verbally mistreating a person to inflict pain or distress.
- Threatening, belittling, or controlling caregiver
- Behavioral changes in the adult
 - Drastic mood changes or unpredictable behavior
 - Signs of denial

Neglect and Self-neglect

- Neglect by Caregivers or Self-neglect is the lack or failure of care.
 - Most commonly reported sign of abuse
 - Unusual weight loss, malnutrition, dehydration
 - Untreated sores or physical problems
 - Unsafe and unsanitary living conditions
 - Desertion of elderly

Financial Exploitation and Healthcare Fraud

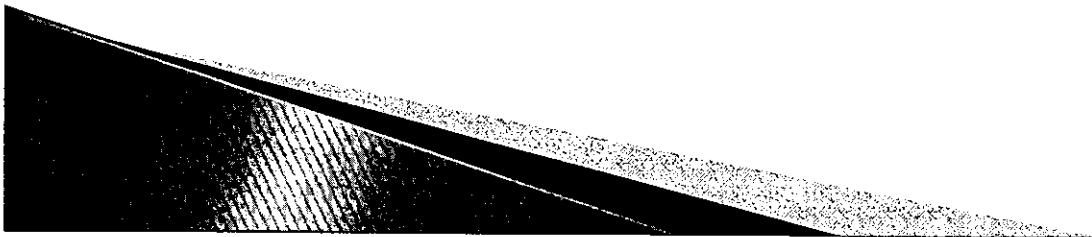
- ▶ Financial exploitation is the unauthorized use of a patient's funds. Similarly, healthcare fraud is a form of financial exploitation carried out by doctors, nurses, and professional care providers that charge for services that were not provided.

Financial Exploitation and Healthcare Fraud cont.

- ▶ Signs of exploitation and fraud include:
 - Misuse of personal checks
 - Stealing personal belongings
 - Forging signatures
 - Identity theft
 - Phony charities
 - Investment fraud
 - Medicaid or Medicare fraud
 - Charging of services that were not provided

Abuse Perpetrators Can Be:

- ▶ Families Members
- ▶ Paid Caregivers
- ▶ Friends
- ▶ Facility Staff Members
- ▶ Agency Staff Members
- ▶ Handy Men/Contractors
- ▶ Con Artists



Reporting Abuse

- ▶ Reporting abuse:
 - The identity, age, and location of the abused adult
 - Any information about the suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation
 - Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
 - Call 1-800-252-5400
 - www.txabusehotline.org
 - Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services
 - Call 1-800-458-9858

You are Key!



Report suspected Abuse,
Neglect and
Exploitation!

You can help vulnerable
adults suffering in
silence have safer,
happier and more
productive lives!