Warning Signs of Elder Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation

**Physical & Sexual Abuse**
- Bruises, pressure marks, broken bones, abrasions, and burns – often accompanied with inconsistent explanation for how they occurred
- Internal injuries
- Victim statements

**Neglect**
- Dehydration
- Malnutrition
- Weight loss
- Poor hygiene
- Absence of needed supervision
- Lack of necessary equipment or health aids

**Financial Exploitation**
- Denied basic financial information
- Unpaid bills
- Asked to be a co-signer on documents
- Abrupt asset transfers
- Abrupt changes to an important document such as a will or Power of Attorney form

**Other General Warning Signs**
- Unexplained withdrawal from normal activities, a sudden change in alertness, and unusual depression
- Bedsores, unattended medical needs, poor hygiene, and unusual weight loss
- Belittling, making threats, and other uses of power and control by spouses, loved ones, or caretakers
- Strained or tense relationships, including frequent arguments between the caregiver and elderly persons
- Sudden changes in financial situations

(Adopted from the Minnesota Elder Justice Center)
Elder Abuse: Three Basic Questions

Abuse, neglect and exploitation of elders may not be obvious. However, there are often warning signs that you or a loved one may be at risk. It’s never an easy conversation to have, but it may help save you or a loved one.

Start by asking three basic questions:

1. Is someone taking or using your money without your permission?
2. Are you afraid of anyone?
3. Is anybody hurting you?

(Adopted from the Minnesota Elder Justice Center)

Follow Up Questions

Have you or a loved one had a partner, family member, or trusted caregiver that:

- Embarrasses you by calling you bad names or putting you down?
- Looks at you or acts in ways that scare you?
- Destroys, damages or gives away your property?
- Hides details about your finances or property from you?
- Controls what you do, who you see, or where you go?
- Controls your money or legal documents without your permission?
- Uses your money in ways that do not benefit you?
- Makes all of the decisions without your input?
- Threatens to hurt you?
- Shoves, slaps, grabs or hits you?
- Ignores your physical, emotional or medical needs?
- Takes money that you need to pay your bills?
- Acts like everything is fine when others around me say I should be concerned?