

PERSONAL & HOME SAFETY CROSSROAD

CONNECTION FOR CAREGIVERS

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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A

Abuse (personal) - Includes the physical, mental financial and sexual abuse of an older adult. Physical includes hitting, slapping, kicking, and restraining. Neglect includes the failure to provide necessities for physical, intellectual, and emotional well-being. Financial Exploitation includes the unauthorized use of an older person's money or property. Emotional Abuse includes threats, humiliation, intimidation, yelling, brow-beating or name calling. Sexual includes any unwarranted sexual advances.

Accessibility - As required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, all barriers that hinder a person with a disability from entering, functioning, and working within a facility must be removed. Required restructuring of the facility cannot cause undue hardship for the employer.

Activities Of Daily Living (ADLs) - Self-care tasks/activities, including the ability to bathe/shower, dress/undress, eat, voluntarily control urinary and fecal discharge, transfer in and out of bed or chair, and walk, which are used to measure the Functional Impairment Level of an Applicant or a Client.

Advocate - A person who gives you support or protects your rights.

Aging Services Access Point (ASAP) - Private, non-profit, state-designated agencies under contract with the Executive Office of Elder Affairs that provides a single-entry point for seniors to access a variety of programs and services. Formerly known as "Home Care Corporation".

Alzheimer's Disease - A progressive, irreversible disease characterized by degeneration of the brain cells and serve loss of memory, causing the individual to become dysfunctional and dependent upon others for basic living needs.

Are You Ok? - A program designed for older adults who live alone. It is a telephone reassurance program where the older adult's welfare is checked daily.

C

Caregiver - A caregiver of an older adult is anyone who provides physical, financial, and/or emotional support for an older adult whose daily activities are limited by diminished mental or physical function.

Caregiver Burden - The emotional, physical, and financial toll that caregiving can have on a caregiver which can increase his/her stress level.

CareTeam - Anyone who is providing any sort of support to the older adult and most importantly the older adult him/herself. This team includes the older adult, the caregiver(s) (primary, secondary, long distance, etc.), medical professionals, allied health professionals, lawyers, homemakers, home health aides, and anyone else who contributes to supporting the health and independence of the older adult.

CareTeam Binder - A binder in which all important information regarding the CareTeam and the caregiving process can be kept. Three essential parts of this CareTeam binder are the contact information of anyone associated with the CareTeam, a hospital log in which an in depth record is kept of the older adult's medical appointments, and a daily journal so that everyone who cares for the older adult can write down exactly what was done and how it went.

Crisis Program - Provides short-term, problem focused casework, and counseling to at risk older adults.

Cueing - Supervising or directing the actions of an individual with a cognitive impairment; such as reminding an individual to take their medicine or showing them how to eat.

E

Elder Abuse - An act or omission which results in serious physical or emotional injury to an elderly person; this includes financial exploitation. Protective Service Agencies receive and investigate reports of elder abuse or neglect. The purpose of Protective Services is to prevent, eliminate or remedy the effects of abuse to an elderly person.

Emergency Care - Care given for a medical emergency when an individual's health is in serious danger and when every second counts.

Emergency Management - Every community in Massachusetts has its own designated emergency management department who will create plans for various emergencies that could affect the community at large.

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) - Or Ambulance Technician, are terms used to denote a healthcare provider of emergency medical services.

Escort - Accompanies a client to his/her destination.

Escorted Transportation Services - A service that allows an individual to accompany an older adult or person with a disability on their shopping trips, medical appointments, social activities, hospital visits, or anywhere they would like assistance.

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Financial Abuse - The exploitation or misuse of the older adult's money or possessions.

G

Global Positioning System (GPS) - An accurate worldwide navigational and surveying facility based on the reception of signals from an array of orbiting satellites.

H

Hands-On Assistance - Physical assistance from another person without which the individual would not be able to perform an Activity of Daily Living.

Health Care Proxy - A document by which a competent person designates another person to act as his/her health care agent with the authority to make all health care decisions (unless specifically limited) for the grantor should he/she become unable to make or communicate those decisions. Legally recognized in Massachusetts.

Hoarding - The excessive acquisition and inability, or unwillingness, to discard large quantities of objects that would usually be regarded as useless or without value.

Hoarding Task Force - A group of professionals including therapists and public officials dedicated to helping those with a hoarding problem.

Homebound - An older adult or individual who is normally unable to leave their home unassisted. To be homebound means that leaving home takes considerable and taxing effort. A person may leave home for medical treatment or short infrequent absences for non-medical reasons, such as a trip to the barber or to attend religious service. A need for adult day care does not keep you from getting home health care.

M

Medical Emergency Kit - This kit must have a list of people to be notified in case of a medical emergency, including their names and contact information. It should also contain a list including the older adult's primary care doctor and specialists, important medical history, current medications, and both food and drug allergies.

Mistreatment - Any action that is likely to harm an individual. Mistreatment may be in the forms of the use of medications or treatments, isolation, or physical or chemical restraints which harm or are likely to harm the patient or resident.

N

Neglect - When caregivers do not give a person the care or the goods or services needed to avoid harm or illness. It may also refer to when an older adult does not recognize the negative consequences of not accessing goods or services for him/herself which may result in harm or illness.

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Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS) - Medical communications alerting systems that allow an elder experiencing a medical emergency at home to access medical service via an electronic transmitter to a central monitoring station.

Physical Abuse - Infliction of physical pain or injury, physical coercion, confinement, slapping, bruising, sexually molesting, cutting, lacerating, burning, restraining, pushing, shoving, etc.

Physical Injury - Includes, but not limited to, death, brain damage, or disfigurement. Also includes any non-trivial injury including, but not limited to, fracture of a bone, skin bruising, intramuscular injury, puncture wound, abrasion, laceration, burn, bleeding, impairment of a bodily system or organ, excessive bedsores or similar condition, harmful symptoms resulting from the use of medication or chemicals without informed consent or authorization, non-consensual sexual touching, sexual penetration, or sexual exploitation.

Protective Services Program - Investigates and, when appropriate, intervenes in cases where there is evidence that an elder has been neglected, abused or financially exploited by someone in a domestic setting. The protective services system is anchored by a 24 hour, seven day a week emergency hotline. It is empowered by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 19A to take steps that ensure that elder victims of physical and emotional abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation receive protective and supportive services. Elders must consent to services, but in situations where an elder lacks the capacity to provide consent, court ordered services may be provided.

Psychological Abuse - The willful infliction of mental or emotional anguish by threat, humiliation, or other verbal or nonverbal conduct.

Q

Quality of Life - Includes self perceived health status, mental status, sexual function and stress level, helps to explain an individual's general well-being.

S

Safe Return - Program offered by the Alzheimer's Association available to those in Massachusetts and across the country that locates and recovers older people who have wandered and become lost.

Sexual Abuse - Includes any level of sexual behavior that the older adult does not agree to.

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