

GET INVOLVED, GET SAFE

Prevent Abuse of Older Veterans



Elder abuse is more common than you think.

It happens when an older adult is harmed on purpose or is neglected. The abuser can be a family member, friend, or caregiver. Abusers can also be strangers who get in touch with older adults by phone, email, mail, social media, or the internet.



Know the Scams Targeting Older Veterans

Benefits Poaching – Scammers try to gain access to Veterans' benefits by charging fees for free records, or offering cash payouts in exchange for collecting future benefits payments. [VA link.](#)

Employment Scams - Scammers place fake employment ads with the goal of stealing and selling a Veteran's personal information

Unethical Advisors - Scammers can offer to move your assets so you qualify for VA benefits, provide you in-home care to increase your medical expense deduction or charge you a fee to file your claim.

VA and accredited agents will never charge you for filing a claim.

Veterans Charity Scams – Scammers pose as a charity to collect donations for their own use. You can check out a charity at www.charitynavigator.org or www.charitywatch.org before giving.

VA Impersonation – Scammers call Veterans and pretend to work for the VA in an effort to steal personal information like social security numbers. The VA will not ask for personal data by phone, text, or email.



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Take Action to Protect Yourself with these Tips

Elder abuse can harm your body, mind, relationships or finances. Here are some tips for reducing your risk.

CONNECT

with Veterans' programs for support and assistance.

SEEK CARE

for PTSD, addiction or mental health issues.

TALK

to someone you trust if you are concerned about your safety or you feel you're being abused.

PLAN

for the future so you have control over your life and your money through a safety plan, a health care power of attorney, a financial power of attorney, and a will.

LEARN

about types of financial scams at consumer.ftc.gov/scam-alerts.

Get Help

Call **9-1-1** for emergencies to get immediate help.

Call the **Veterans Crisis Line** for 24/7 confidential crisis support **1-800-273-TALK** (1-800-273-8255), www.veteranscrisisline.net.

Call the **Elder Fraud Hotline** at **1-833-372-8311** (English/Español/+) This free resource is staffed by experienced case managers who provide support but do not investigate cases.



Visit the Elder Justice Website
elderjustice.gov

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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INITIATIVE

