



## Safeguarding Seniors FROM ABUSE

**ElderSAFE™ Center** works with our community partners – local agencies, area hospitals, and social service organizations – to build a strong and effective response to elder abuse.

### What is elder abuse?

Elder abuse is the mistreatment of older adults in one or more of the following ways:

- **PHYSICAL:** Use of force (such as hitting or pushing) causing pain, harm, or physical injury; inappropriate use of medications or physical restraints.
- **SEXUAL:** Any type of non-consensual sexual contact.
- **PSYCHOLOGICAL:** Mistreatment that affects emotional or mental health, including: intimidation, threats, harassment, humiliation, belittlement, or isolation.
- **NEGLECT:** Willful deprivation of basic needs, including food, clothing, shelter, medicine, or personal hygiene.
- **FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION:** Misuse of the older adult's money, property, or resources.

### How can ElderSAFE help?

Our commitment to caring for older adults reaches beyond our campus. Charles E. Smith Life Communities established the ElderSAFE Center, the first program of its kind in the Washington, DC, area, to:

- › Accept referrals from community agencies in MD, DC and Northern VA
- › Provide safe, temporary shelter, including confidential counseling, medical, and therapy services
- › Advocate on behalf of older adults
- › Build awareness and knowledge of elder abuse through informative programs for the community, service providers, caregivers, and faith leaders

## Warning signs of elder abuse

Is the older adult . . .

- › Fearful of caregiver?
- › Not receiving necessary assistance from caregiver?
- › Prevented from interacting privately with family, friends, or other professionals?
- › Crying, agitated, trembling, confused, or in emotional distress?
- › Withdrawn, depressed, lacking emotion?
- › Showing signs of self-destructive behavior?
- › Socially or physically isolated?
- › Displaying poor hygiene, such as dirty clothing, body odor?
- › Lacking in basic necessities, or home is in disarray?
- › Suffering from unexplained bruises, burns, cuts, or welts?
- › Experiencing unauthorized withdrawal of funds or use of credit cards?

## Who to call?

Keep this card as a resource. If elder abuse is suspected, call 911 or contact the Adult Protective Service (APS) office in your community:

In Montgomery County, MD: **240-777-3000**

In other Maryland counties: **1-800-332-6347**

In Washington, DC: **202-541-3950**

In Virginia: **1-888-832-3858**



ElderSAFE Helpline: **301-816-5099**

[www.smithlifecommunities.org/eldersafe](http://www.smithlifecommunities.org/eldersafe)

ElderSAFE™ Center is a program of Charles E. Smith Life Communities.