

Chapter 2 Reporting Elder Abuse

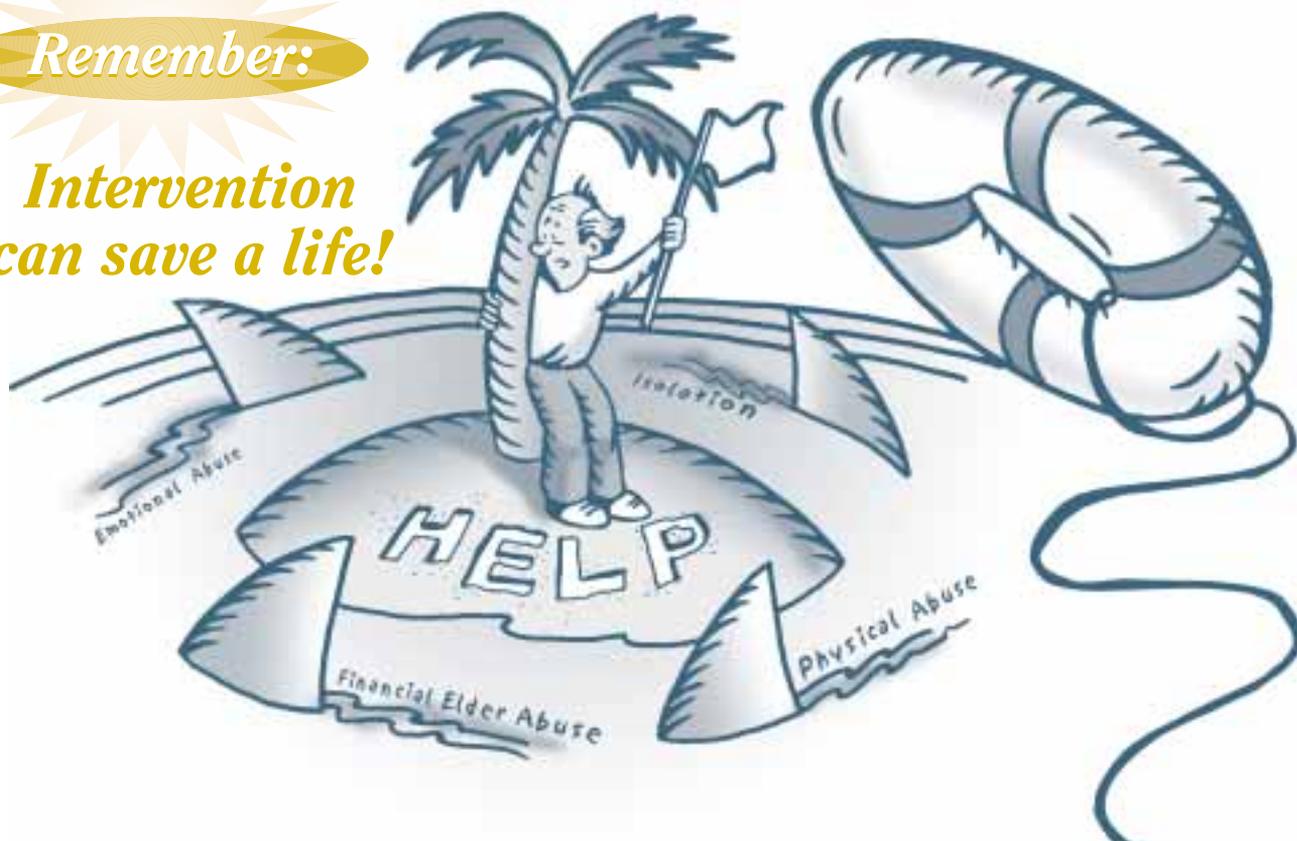
Reporting Abuse

Any person who suspects that abuse of an elder has occurred can and should report it. Another's assets, health, dignity and/or life may depend upon your courage to act.

Abuse can continue and often escalates if there is no intervention. Known or suspected cases of abuse should be reported to the appropriate agencies in your area. When in doubt, err on the side of caution and report.

Remember:

***Intervention
can save a life!***



Reporting suspected abuse is simple.

To report abuse that has occurred in a long-term care facility, such as a nursing home or residential care facility, call the local Long-Term Care Ombudsman, your local law enforcement agency or the Bureau of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse. You may also file a complaint with the appropriate state regulatory agency.

If the suspected abuse has occurred anywhere other than in a facility, reports should be made to the local county Adult Protective Services Agency or to local law enforcement.

As a person reporting abuse, you are shielded from both criminal and civil liability.

See the following listings within this booklet for information concerning reporting agencies.



Mandated Reporters

Under California law, certain individuals are legally mandated to report known or suspected instances of elder abuse. The following is a partial list of mandated reporters:

- Physicians and medical professionals
- Clergy
- All employees of health care facilities, such as hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, adult day care centers and residential care facilities
- Any individual who assumes responsibility for the care or custody of an elderly person

Any mandated reporter who fails to report elder abuse may be guilty of a crime.

(California Welfare and Institutions Code section 15630)