

## **June is National Elder Abuse Awareness Month**

The month of June is designated as **Elder Abuse Awareness Month**. This is a time for everyone, not just healthcare professionals to be extra vigilant to what we see and hear. According to a recent National Elder Abuse Incident Study, for every one reported case of elder abuse, five more are unreported. Underreported acts of abuse are growing at frightening rates – with statistics estimating 1 to 2 million Americans ages 65 or older becoming injured, exploited, or mistreated by someone upon whom they depend for care.

Abusers may be spouses, family members, personal acquaintances, professionals in positions of trust, or opportunistic strangers who prey on the defenseless.

HisGrip Home Care wants to encourage everyone, seniors, family members, friends, and caregivers, to be attentive to the warning signs of abuse - not just during the month of the June but at ALL times.

Here are some signs to be aware of:

- Physical Abuse- Slap marks, unexplained bruises, most pressure marks, and certain types of burns or blisters, such as cigarette burns
- Neglect or isolation from friends and family - Withdrawal from normal activities, pressure ulcers, filth, lack of medical care, malnutrition, or dehydration
- Emotional Abuse– Frequent arguments between the senior and others, unexplained changes in alertness, or other unusual behavioral changes
- Sexual Abuse- Bruises around the breasts or genital area and unexplained sexually transmitted diseases
- Financial Abuse/Exploitation - Sudden change in finances and accounts, altered wills and trusts, unusual bank withdrawals, checks written as “loans” or “gifts,” and loss of property

*Sadly,*

*Some people respect their elders...*

*Some people abuse them...*

*Join HisGrip Home Care as we advocate for seniors to prevent elder abuse*

If you suspect any type of abuse or neglect:

- Report it to your local adult protective services agency and to law enforcement
- Remember – you do not have to prove abuse – physical, emotional, verbal or financial – do not hesitate to make a call to the local Adult Protective Services (APS).
- Remember you do not have to prove abuse is taking place to say something and the call can be anonymous.

Count on HisGrip Home Care. Our licensed, bonded and insured caregivers are available around the clock, every day of the year to help maintain our elders’ independence at home. With our extensive experience in home care, our caregivers are trained to spot and report any form of

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