



Victim Specialist Web Page

FEBRUARY 27, 2017



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ElderJustice
INITIATIVE



OVCTTAC
OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME Training and Technical Assistance Center

TECHNICAL OVERVIEW

- Can you hear the audio? If you CANNOT hear the audio, please make sure you are dialed into:
 - International toll: 1-913-312-0828
 - United States/Canada toll free: 1-866-398-2885
 - Passcode: 612188#
- If you have technical difficulties during the webinar, contact Danielle McLean, who is providing technical support for this webinar. Her email address is dmclean@ovcttac.org.
- Today's session will be recorded and made available on the training website.
- If you have questions, type them in the feedback box, and we will address as many as possible toward the end of the webinar.

PRESENTERS

- Maria Shumar, Victim Specialist Consultant
Department of Justice, Elder Justice Initiative
Washington, DC
- Keeley Frank, Senior Services Specialist
National Center for Victims of Crime, Washington, DC

VICTIM SPECIALISTS

- Are an integral part of helping older victims.
- Spend time with victims, know their story, their needs, their fears.
- Provide resources, help, and assistance for the populations they serve.
- Communicate directly with victims about rights, case status, and more.
- Communicate with prosecutors, court staff, and service agencies. Can educate partners about elder abuse.

Why Should We Care About Elder Abuse?

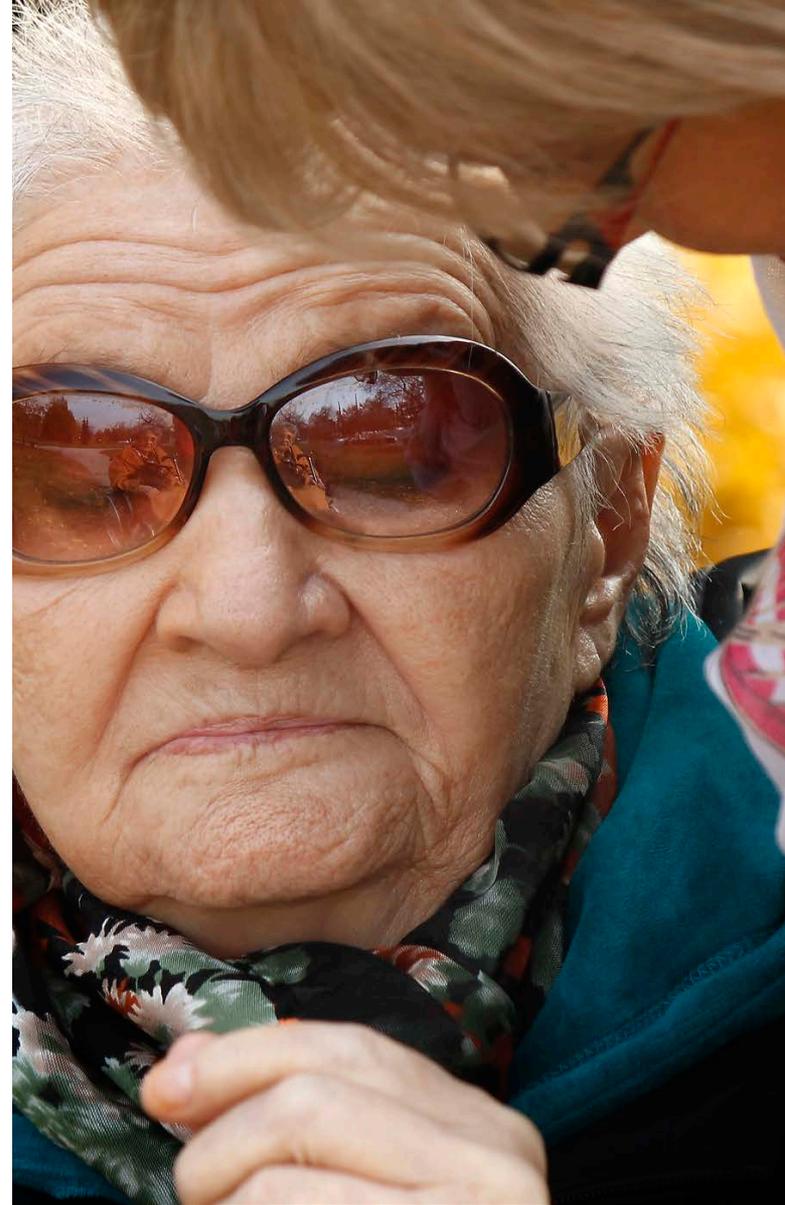
WHY CARE?

- All victims deserve respect.
- Older population is increasing.
- Effects of aging cause vulnerabilities.
- Elder abuse is under reported.
- Lack of awareness about elder abuse.
- Societal attitudes do not support older victims.



WHY CARE?

- Elder abuse cases can fall through the cracks.
- Older victims may be afraid of retaliation, may be ashamed, and may be fearful of being institutionalized.
- Often there is more than one type of abuse occurring.
- Older victims are twice as likely to suffer injury.
- Mortality rate for abused older victims is 3x higher than for those who are not abused.



How Can Victim Specialists Help?

YOU CAN HELP BY:

- Educating yourself about elder abuse.
- Educating staff about elder abuse.
- Listening and showing respect and sensitivity.
- Not judging the older adult.
- Empowering the older adult.
- Helping the older adult find resources, support, and services.

ELDER JUSTICE INITIATIVE

- The mission of the Elder Justice Initiative is to support and coordinate the Department of Justice's enforcement and programmatic efforts to combat elder abuse, neglect, and financial fraud, and scams that target older adults.

The initiative does so by:

- Promoting justice for older adults.
- Helping older victims and their families.
- Enhancing state and local efforts through training and resources.
- Supporting research to improve elder abuse policy and practice.

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VICTIM SPECIALISTS

Victim Specialists

Find resources, webinars, training and victims' rights information



Victim Specialists work closely with prosecutors, Assistant United States Attorneys, law enforcement and others to ensure that elder abuse victims are treated with respect, know their rights and their role within the criminal justice system. They help navigate victims through the criminal justice system by providing support, assessing a victim's needs, developing a safety plan, connecting to resources and identifying gaps in service. They also ensure that staff are informed about elder abuse and the trauma that victims experience. Ultimately a Victim Specialist wants the victim to experience justice and regain their sense of well-being and recovery.

Victim Specialists topics

[Reporting Obligations](#)[Victims' Rights](#)[Federal Webinars](#)[Helpful Information & Training for Victim Specialists](#)[Learn More About Elder Abuse & Financial Exploitation](#)[Hotlines & Resources to Share with Seniors](#)[Materials to Use in Elder Abuse Presentations](#)[Reporting Obligations](#)



VictimConnect can assist in providing information and referrals regarding the following:

- Case Management
- Mental Health and Counseling
- Housing
- Victim Compensation and Restitution
- Legal Services
- National and Local Referrals
- Civil Justice Options
- Support Groups
- Crime Reporting
- Identity Theft Recovery
- Safety Planning

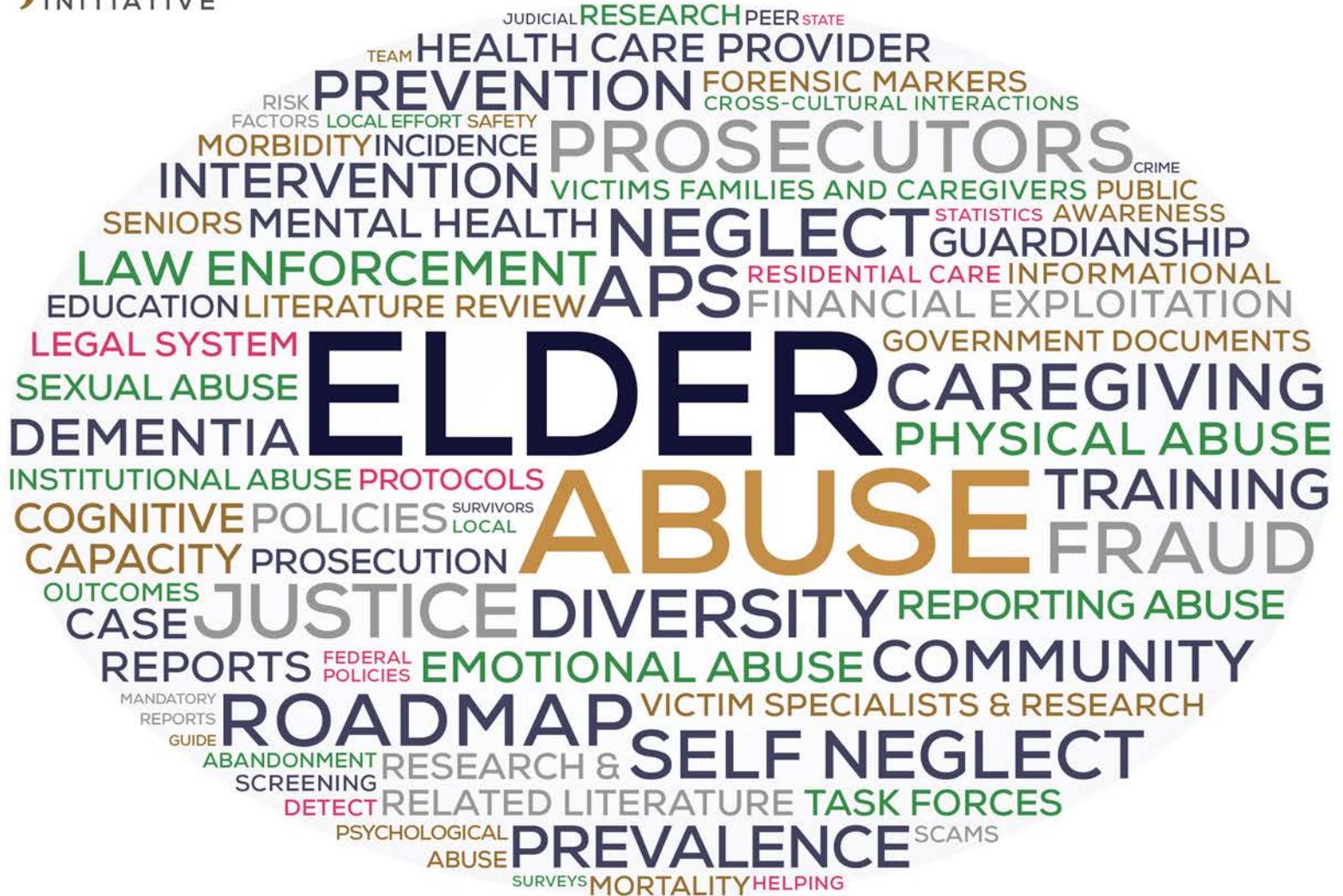


Confidential referrals for crime victims



855-4-VICTIM

www.victimconnect.org



www.elderjustice.gov

Questions & Suggestions

Suggestions can be emailed to:

elder.justice@usdoj.gov

Thank you for your time and support.