

# The Power to Prevent Elder Abuse Is in Your Hands



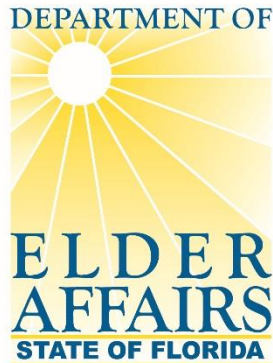
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# Mickey Rooney

A stylized illustration of a hand holding a heart. The hand is dark grey, and the heart is a vibrant red with a white, cracked texture. The background is a light, textured grey.

- On March 2, 2011, the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging heard the testimony of legendary entertainment celebrity Mickey Rooney about his experience as a victim of exploitation and emotional abuse. He is now an advocate for seniors across the nation and encourages them to speak out about their abuse and exploitation.
- Mickey Rooney's last words to the public audience, "Don't let it happen to you."

# DOEA vs. DCF



## Administers

- Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Prevention Program
- Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program



## Administers

- Abuse Hotline for adults and children
- Investigations

# Long Term Care Ombudsman



- DOEA program
- Protect the rights of long-term care facility residents
- Education and investigations


1-888-831-0404

# Florida Statutes

Chapter 415

Chapter 825



A graphic in the top right corner shows a hand holding a heart. The heart is a vibrant, multi-colored pattern, and the hand is a solid dark color. The background of the slide is a light purple gradient with a faint, repeating pattern of the heart and hand graphic.

## Overview of Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation

- Complex and often hidden problem
- DCF investigates and corrects through reports taken by the abuse hotline
- All citizens in Florida are mandatory reporters

# Vulnerable Adults

- Unable to protect themselves due to their disability/infirmity.
- Person age 18 or older whose ability to perform the normal activities of daily living, and/or to provide for their own care or protection, are impaired due to a mental, emotional, long-term physical, or developmental disability or dysfunction, or brain damage, or due to the infirmities of aging.



# Capacity



- Means that a vulnerable adult has sufficient understanding to make and communicate responsible decisions regarding the vulnerable adult's person or property, including whether or not to accept protective services offered by the department.



# What Are Indicators of Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation?



# Abuse



- Any willful act or threatened act by a relative, caregiver, or household member which causes or is likely to cause significant impairment to a vulnerable adult's physical, mental or emotional health.
- Includes acts and omissions

# Neglect



- Failure or omission on the part of the caregiver or vulnerable adult to provide the care, supervision, and services necessary to maintain the physical and mental health of a vulnerable adult.
- Failure of a caregiver or vulnerable adult to make a reasonable effort to protect a vulnerable adult from abuse, neglect , or exploitation by others.
- Repeated conduct or a single incident of carelessness which produces or could reasonably be expected to result in serious physical or psychological injury, or a substantial risk of death.

# Exploitation

- A person who stands in a position of trust and confidence with a vulnerable adult; or knows or should know that the vulnerable lacks the capacity to consent; and knowingly, by deception or intimidation, obtaining or using, or attempting to obtain or use the adult's funds, assets, or property with the intent to temporarily or permanently deprive the adult of the use, benefit, or possession of the funds, assets, or property for the benefit of someone other than the vulnerable adult.

# Perpetrators / Abusers

A graphic in the top right corner shows a hand holding a heart. The heart is a vibrant, multi-colored pattern, and the hand is a solid dark color. The background of the slide is a light purple gradient with a textured, brush-stroke-like pattern in shades of purple and white.

- Over 90 percent of the time they are family members
- May be using/abusing alcohol or other substances
- May have a poor financial situation
- May be extremely stressed
- Often lack understanding about the needs of the person they are caring for

# Reporting



# Barriers to reporting

A hand holding a heart. The hand is dark purple, and the heart is a lighter shade of purple. The background is a gradient of purple and white.

- Victims find it difficult to report for themselves due to guilt, pride, shame, or fear
- Recognizing signs and symptoms of abuse, neglect, and exploitation is sometimes not easy
- There is often a lack of knowledge of mandatory reporting requirements

# Reporting

Who, What, When,  
Where, Why, and  
How?





# Reporting

The slide features a decorative background with purple and green textures. A hand is shown holding a heart, symbolizing care or attention. The title 'Reporting' is centered in a purple box at the top.

- Making a good report requires...
  - Understanding of terms and reporting requirements
  - Clear communication
  - Detailed information

# Reporting



- Telephone

- 1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873)**

- Online

- <https://abuse-report-bc.dcf.state.fl.us/abusewebreport/home.aspx>

(You must have JavaScript and Popups enabled to complete a report.)

- Fax

- 1-800-914-0004

A purple rectangular box with rounded corners is positioned on the left side of the slide. The background of the slide features a hand holding a heart, with the hand and heart rendered in a light purple color against a white background. The text is centered within the purple box.

# Hotline Commitment to Service

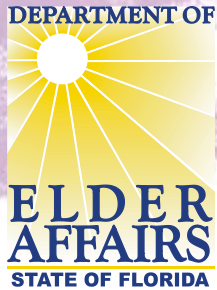
All calls are  
**CONFIDENTIAL!**

REMEMBER –

Everyone is a  
mandatory reporter of  
elder abuse, neglect,  
and exploitation.



# CONTACT NUMBERS



To learn more – 1-800-96-ELDER  
(1-800-963-5337)



To report abuse – 1-800-96-ABUSE  
(1-800-962-2873)

INSERT AAA contact info