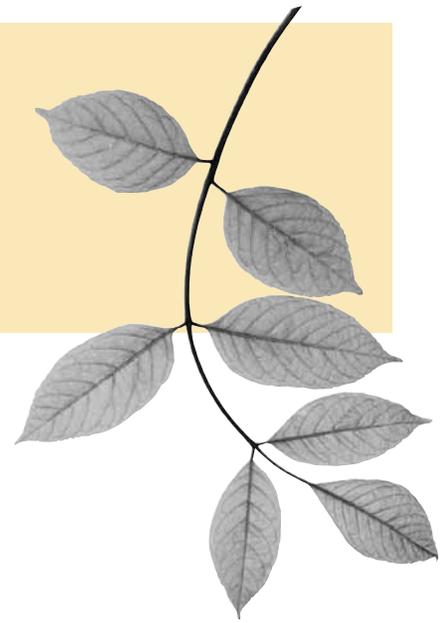


Human rights abuse of older persons



Human rights abuse

- This refers to the unreasonable denial of fundamental rights and freedoms normally enjoyed by adults.
- It can include the denial of information, privacy, or visitors; mail censorship; or any other restriction of an older person's freedom.

Examples of human rights abuse

- **Exclusion from social activities** — such as family or social gatherings;
- **Mail censorship** — going through an older person's mail or not giving an older person his or her mail;
- **Invasion of privacy** — such as not being allowed to talk on the phone in private;
- **Restriction of activities** — such as not allowing older persons to attend their church of choice, have visitors or go on outings;
- **Restriction of liberty** — not allowing older persons to come and go as they please; and
- **Removal of decision-making power** from capable older adults — not allowing them to make decisions that directly affect their lives (e.g., where they live).

No one has the right to deny the human rights and freedoms of another person.

Every older person has these rights

- **Privacy and confidentiality** — the right to have personal information kept confidential and the right to personal privacy.
- **Freedom of choice** — the right to make decisions about his or her own life, including the right to manage his or her own financial affairs, as long as the choices do not infringe on the rights or safety of others.
- **Safety** — the right to live in a safe and clean environment free from abuse and neglect.
- **Self-determination** — the right to make his or her own decisions without interference from others.
- **Information** — the right to freely obtain information to be able to make informed choices or decisions.
- **Employment** — the right to opportunities in employment and training.

- **Health care** — the right to high quality medical treatment and health care services.
- **Housing** — the right to safe affordable housing options. This right applies to renting, eviction rules and regulations, repairs and the use of services and utilities. It also includes the right to a range of housing options based on an older person's individual needs.
- **Transportation services** — the right to safe, accessible transportation.



Everyone deserves to be treated with respect and dignity

You are not alone — help and support are available

Seniors' Services/Adult Protection Unit: phone 456-3946; toll-free 1-800-661-0408, ext. 3946