RED FLAGS OF ABUSE

Does someone you know—a senior or adult with a disability—display any warning signs of mistreatment?

» Neglect
  - Lack of basic hygiene, adequate food, or clean and appropriate clothing
  - Lack of medical aids (glasses, walker, teeth, hearing aid, medications)
  - Person with dementia left unsupervised
  - Person confined to bed is left without care
  - Home cluttered, filthy, in disrepair, or having fire and safety hazards
  - Home without adequate facilities (stove, refrigerator, heat, cooling, working plumbing, and electricity)
  - Untreated pressure “bed” sores (pressure ulcers)

» Financial Abuse/Exploitation
  - Lack of amenities victim could afford
  - Vulnerable elder/adult “voluntarily” giving uncharacteristically excessive financial reimbursement/gifts for needed care and companionship
  - Caregiver has control of elder’s money but is failing to provide for elder’s needs
  - Vulnerable elder/adult has signed property transfers (Power of Attorney, new will, etc.) but is unable to comprehend the transaction or what it means

» Psychological/Emotional Abuse
  - Unexplained or uncharacteristic changes in behavior, such as withdrawal from normal activities, unexplained changes in alertness, other
  - Caregiver isolates elder (doesn’t let anyone into the home or speak to the elder)
  - Caregiver is verbally aggressive or demeaning, controlling, overly concerned about spending money, or uncaring

» Physical/Sexual Abuse
  - Inadequately explained fractures, bruises, welts, cuts, sores or burns
  - Unexplained sexually transmitted diseases

If you or someone you know is in a life threatening situation or immediate danger, call 911 or the local police or sheriff.