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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY: JUNE 15TH

June 15, 2015 is the 10th anniversary of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. According to the World Health Organization's data four to six percent of elderly suffer from some form of abuse. Nationally, every year an estimated 5 million, or 1 in 10, older Americans are victims of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation. And that's only part of the picture: Experts believe that for every case of elder abuse or neglect reported, as many as 23.5 cases go unreported. This designated day allows for global recognition of the physical, emotional and financial abuses that many elderly people are living through on a day to day basis.

What Is Elder Abuse?

Elder abuse refers to intentional or negligent acts by a caregiver or trusted individual that causes harm to an elder. Elder abuse takes many forms, including:

Neglect	Financial abuse and exploitation
Physical abuse	Emotional or psychological abuse
Sexual abuse	Self-neglect

Who Is at Risk for Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation?

Elder abuse can happen to anyone. Elder abuse affects seniors across all socio-economic groups, cultures, and races. Elder abuse can occur anywhere:

- In a person's own home
- In nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other institutional settings
- In hospitals

Some common risk factors:

- Dementia
- Mental health or substance abuse issues (victim, perpetrator, or both)
- Social isolation
- Poor physical health, which increases vulnerability and therefore may increase risk

What Are the Signs of Elder Abuse?

Learn the warning signs and act to protect seniors.

Some common warning signs:

- Inadequately explained fractures, bruises, welts, cuts, sores, or burns;
- Lack of basic hygiene, food or appropriate clothing;
- Person with dementia left unsupervised;
- Person confined in bed is left without care;
- Home is cluttered, dirty, or in disrepair;
- Home lacks adequate facilities (stove, refrigerator, heating and cooling, plumbing, or electricity);
- Untreated bed sores or pressure ulcers;
- Unexplained or uncharacteristic changes in behavior, such as withdrawal from normal activities, or unexplained changes in alertness;
- Caregiver isolates the elder (doesn't let anyone in the home or speak to the elder);
- Caregiver is verbally aggressive or demeaning, controlling, or uncaring.

What Can People Do to Prevent Elder Abuse?

Report suspected abuse to Aging and Disability Services Division or your local law enforcement agency.

For more information about Elder Abuse contact Carrie Embree, Elder Rights Chief, Aging and Disability Services Division, at (775) 687-0517 or clembrree@adsd.nv.gov.

If you suspect Elder Abuse – Report It 1-888-729-0571 or if in the Las Vegas area you can call 702-486-6930.

If you believe that an elder is in a life-threatening situation, contact 911 or the local police or sheriff's department.

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