

In 80% of sexual assaults against the elderly, the victims know their attackers.

How to help an elder who has been sexually abused:

- ✓ Check on the elder's safety.
- ✓ Believe what they are saying.
- ✓ Tell them it is not their fault.
- ✓ Help them report the crime to law enforcement.
- ✓ Encourage them to seek counseling.
- ✓ Contact your local certified rape crisis center.
- ✓ Don't delay – it is everyone's duty to report elder abuse.

Please begin the conversation today with an elder you know and help us put an end to elder abuse.

If you or someone you know has been the victim of sexual assault, please call your local sexual assault hotline at (888) 956-7273.



Florida Council Against Sexual Violence

1820 East Park Avenue, Suite 100
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Information Line: 1-888-956-RAPE

Office: (850) 297-2000

Email: information@fcasv.org
www.fcasv.org

Elders Can Be Victims of a Serious Crime



It's **hard to talk** about it.
It may be **embarrassing**.
It is a **hidden matter**.
It is often a **secret**.

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INFORMATION FOR ELDERERS

It can be **physical** – someone hits you, threatens to hit you.

It can be **sexual** – someone intimidates you in a sexual way, forces you to watch “dirty movies,” or someone hurts you in a sexual way — rape.

The most common **perpetrators** are **family members** and **caregivers**.



What can **you** do?

Elders are afraid to speak out because they fear no one will believe them, or they may fear:

- being put in a nursing home
- having their medication withheld
- being abused further by the perpetrator
- losing their family relationships if they tell what is going on
- having to tell their story to strangers, like the police
- having to go to court



They may feel as though they do not matter. Despite all these concerns elders are reporting to authorities and getting help.

If you answer any of these questions below with a yes, please call (888) 956-7273 for help.

From the American Medical Association:

Has anyone touched you without your consent?

Has anyone ever made you do things you didn't want to do?

Has anyone ever hurt you?

Are you afraid of anyone at home?



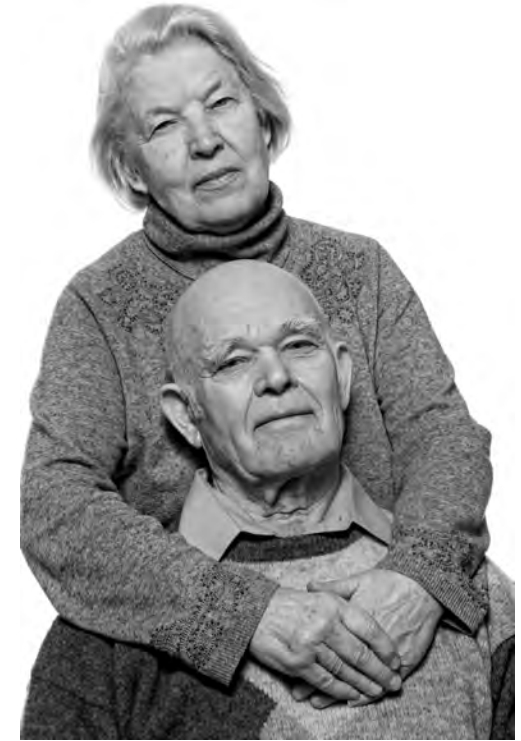
From the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence:

Has anyone ever forced you or frightened you into having sex?

Has anyone forced you to watch pornography?

Is the person who made you do these things living with you?

INFORMATION FOR FAMILY MEMBERS & CAREGIVERS



Symptoms of Elder Sexual Abuse

- Bruising, infection, scarring
- Genital pain
- Difficulty walking or sitting
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Signs of other types of physical abuse
- Ongoing unexplained medical complaints

No matter what age the victim is, sexual assault is a CRIME. Chapter 825 of the Florida Statutes has protections in place for persons 60 or older who may experience some difficulty caring for themselves. Community resources are available to you.