

Elder Abuse Awareness Month

June 2021

WHEREAS, elder financial abuse and neglect can negatively impact an elder’s health, life and financial resources and can result in the loss of the elder’s independence, home, life savings, and/or life; and

WHEREAS, victims of elder abuse include both men and women of diverse educational, socio-economic or ethnic backgrounds who have been victimized by strangers and/or by persons known to the elder who may occupy a position of trust including family members, neighbors, friends and others with whom the elder interacts; and

WHEREAS, over a year after the 2020 Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic became a concern in the United States, it continues to impact everyone, especially elders, by making fragile living situations more stressful, thereby putting elders more at risk for their physical safety and well-being, making reporting suspected elder abuse and neglect more difficult, as well as giving those who commit scams an opportunity to morph existing scams, and create new scams, to prey upon the concerns and fears of vulnerable members of society in order to obtain their money and property; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda County District Attorney’s office, its Elder Protection Unit and its Victim Witness Division, the Alameda County Social Services Agency and its Adult Protective Services Unit and the Ombudsman Services of Alameda, Contra Costa & Solano Counties provide a network of services to elders who are in danger of becoming, or who have become, victims of abuse, and which network includes holding community workshops to promote crime prevention resources and whose personnel include dedicated attorneys, advocates, inspectors and caseworkers should an elder be the victim of a crime; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda County District Attorney’s Office in collaboration with the Alameda County Social Services Agency - Adult Protective Services work with law enforcement and other professionals who assist elders by organizing local trainings to strengthen collective knowledge of elder abuse and/or neglect, improve communication, and enhance elder abuse investigations and case review among agencies that serve elders; and

WHEREAS, Alameda County recognizes that both the awareness of elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation as well as reporting instances of suspected elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation will help keep our elders and community safer.

NOW THEREFORE the Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda does hereby proclaim **June 2021** as “**Elder Abuse Awareness Month**” in recognition that elders are valuable members of society who have the right to live safely and securely in the community.

KEITH CARSON, President
Supervisor, Fifth District

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