According to the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA), elder abuse refers to any of the following types of mistreatment that are committed by someone with whom the elder has a special relationship (e.g. spouse, sibling, child, friend, or caregiver).

**TYPES OF ABUSE**

- **Physical Abuse**
  - The use of physical force that may result in bodily injury, physical pain, or impairment.

- **Emotional/Psychological Abuse**
  - The infliction of anguish, pain, or distress through verbal or nonverbal acts.

- **Sexual Abuse**
  - Sexual contact with any person who has not consented or is incapable of consent.

- **Financial or Material Exploitation**
  - The illegal or improper use of an elder’s funds, property, or assets.

- **Neglect**
  - The refusal or failure to fulfill any part of a person’s obligations or duties to an elder. Neglect may include failure of a person who has fiduciary responsibilities to provide care for an elder (e.g., pay for necessary home services) or the failure on the part of an in-home service provider to provide necessary care.

- **Spiritual Abuse**
  - Spiritual abuse among Native American older adults are actions that damage one’s experience and personal practice of the sacred.

- **Abandonment**
  - The desertion of an elder person by an individual who has assumed responsibility for providing care for an elder, or by a person with physical custody of an elder.

- **Self-Neglect**
  - The behavior of an elder person that threatens his/her personal health or safety.

**REFERENCES**


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