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Rona E. Kramer
Secretary



Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

DEPARTMENT OF AGING

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World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2018

Baltimore, MD – On June 15, 2018, Secretary Rona E. Kramer and the Maryland Department of Aging, Area Agencies on Aging, older adults across the country, and those who care for them will participate in a national and worldwide day entitled World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) highlighting the often under-reported and under-identified issues of elder abuse. This year’s theme is “Building Strong Support for Elders.”

WEAAD is an opportunity for communities around the State of Maryland to raise awareness of elder abuse and neglect and to renew our commitment to preserving the rights of older adults. This includes the basic right to live with dignity, free from abuse and neglect.

According to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, an estimated 93% of elder abuse cases go unreported each year. Elder abuse is a crime with many consequences for our society and older adults. Elder abuse may come in the form of physical abuse, psychological or verbal abuse, sexual abuse, financial exploitation, and neglect.

Marylanders can help throughout the year in their communities by visiting older adults and neighbors with disabilities to make sure everyone is aging safely. If you see signs of potential abuse in the community, report it to the police and/or to Adult Protective Services by calling 1-800-332-6347. If you see abuse or exploitation in a nursing or assisted living home, report it to the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) at 1-800-243-3425 or to the Office of Healthcare Quality (OHCQ) at 410-402-8015. You can remain anonymous if you feel uncomfortable identifying yourself. If you feel a situation is life-threatening, call 911 and get help immediately.

Local Area Agencies on Aging will be giving presentations on how to identify and prevent elder abuse throughout the month of June. For more information on local events please visit www.aging.maryland.gov/Pages/WEAAD18. All are encouraged to attend and to wear purple on June 15th to show support for the safety and well-being of our elderly citizens.

301 West Preston Street • Suite 1007 • Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2374
Local: 410-767-1100 • Toll Free: 1-800-243-3425 • TTY users call via Maryland Relay
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