

SUSPECTED ABUSE TOOL

Purpose: The Suspected Abuse Tool is designed to help recognize common signs or symptoms of abuse.

Instructions: The victim or a reliable party report, or you directly observe the following acts of domestic violence, abuse, neglect, or exploitation (this list is not exhaustive but contains some examples). A single check indicates suspected abuse and requires an appropriate referral for further investigation.

Please check any signs reported to you or that you directly observe for this client	(check)
Signs of Physical Abuse	
• Bruises, welts, cuts, or wounds, cigarette or rope burn marks or blood on person/clothes.	
• Internal injuries, including broken or fractured bones, sprains, or muscle injuries.	
• Painful body movements, such as limping, trouble sitting/standing (not illness related).	
• Coded or vague or indirect references to sexual assault or unwanted sexual advances.	
• Other signs of physical abuse (specify):	
Signs of Psychological Abuse	
• Sense of resignation and hopelessness with vague references to mistreatment.	
• Behavior that is passive, helpless, withdrawn	
• Anxious, trembling, clinging, fearful, scared of someone/something.	
• Self-blame for current situation or partner/caregiver behavior.	
• Other signs of psychological abuse (specify):	
Signs of Neglect by Others or Self	
• Unclean physical appearance.	
• Inadequate food or meal preparation supplies in household.	
• Underweight, physically frail or weak, or dehydrated.	
• Under or overuse of, or confusion about, prescription or over-the-counter medications.	
• Inadequate utilities, including lack of heat, water, electricity, and toilet facilities.	
• Unsafe or unclean environment, including insect infestation or unmaintained animals.	
• Neglected household finances, including unpaid bills or rent.	
• Other signs of neglect (specify):	
Signs of Exploitation	
• Overpayment for goods or services	
• Unexplained changes in power of attorney, wills, or other legal documents.	
• Missing personal belongings.	
• Other signs of exploitation (specify):	

Bass, D. M., Anetzberger, G. J., Ejaz, F. K., Nagpaul, K. (2001). Screening tools and referral protocol for stopping abuse against older Ohioans: A guide for service providers. *Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect*, 13(2), 23-38.

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