

To: All Media

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### Elder Abuse Awareness Month

The Month of June is Elder Abuse Awareness month and June 15<sup>th</sup> is world Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Elder abuse awareness is about ensuring justice for all persons regardless of age, disability, race, gender, or ethnicity. Our efforts strive to build a strong social support structure that promotes all people to live free from abuse or neglect.

There are an estimated **202,549 cases** of reported elder and dependent adult abuse **PER YEAR** in California (Over 6,985 reports in Kern County to Adult Protective Services for 2024). Elder abuse is significantly underreported. For every case known to programs and agencies, **24 go unreported**, and in the case of financial abuse, the estimate is even higher at **44 unreported** cases per 1 reported case. Elder and dependent adult abuse takes many forms such as physical, mental, neglect, self-neglect, abandonment, isolation, abduction, and financial abuse.

Perpetrators of abuse come in many forms. We have all received calls, emails and texts from scam artists representing themselves as government officials or representatives of agencies attempting to scare, coerce, intimidate, and even befriend to get access to funds, gift cards, and assets. The most common perpetrators are usually people that are known to the victim such as a family member or close friend. They come when people are most vulnerable or take advantage of their victim's cognitive decline.

The Kern County Board of Supervisors recognizes the Month of June as Elder Abuse Awareness Month in a proclamation on June 3, 2025. Additionally, the Aging & Adult Services Department, Commission on Aging, District Attorney's Office, and Behavioral Health and Recovery Services will be holding a conference at the Woman's Club of Bakersfield on June 12, 2025, prior to World Elder Abuse Awareness day on June 15, 2025, with presenters including Cynthia Zimmer, District Attorney, Paul Greenwood, Office of Payee Reviews and Beneficiary Assistance (OPRABA), Long Term Care Ombudsman, and the Department of Justice. Registration is closed.

### How to Report Abuse:

In an emergency, call 911. To report cases of abuse, whether it is on your own behalf or that of someone you know, please call Adult Protective Services or the Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

**Adult Protective Services (APS)** responds to reports from individuals, concerned citizens, social service and health providers, and law enforcement representatives about developmentally disabled adults, physically and mentally disabled adults, and the elderly who may be physically or financially abused, neglected, or exploited. Upon receipt of



a referral, APS sends a social worker to attempt a face-to-face visit with the elder or dependent adult. 24 Hour Hotline  
**800-277-7866 or 661-868-1006**

**The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program** investigates elder abuse complaints in long-term care facilities and in residential care facilities for the elderly. The primary responsibility of the program is to investigate and endeavor to resolve complaints made by, or on behalf of, individual residents in these facilities, including nursing homes, residential care facilities for the elderly, and assisted living facilities. The goal of the program is to advocate for the rights of all residents in long term care. **661-323-7884**

For more information please contact **(661) 868-1006**.

