



Additional Charges using Elder Justice Initiative Definitions

Laws vary from state to state and even jurisdiction to jurisdiction. It is critical that a thorough investigation be conducted in accordance with your state's statute. An assessment of the victim's potential to testify should be conducted early on to ensure the most favorable outcome for the victim.

Type of Abuse	Possible Charges ¹	
Physical Abuse is defined as an act, rough treatment or punishment that may result in injury, pain or impairment.	• Aggravated Assault • Assault • Attempted Murder • Battery • Domestic Violence • Elder Abuse • False Imprisonment	• Felony Murder • Homicide by Abuse • Kidnapping • Manslaughter • Murder • Unlawful Imprisonment • Unlawful Restraint
Sexual Abuse is defined as sexual contact or non-contact (e.g., voyeurism) of any kind with an older person without agreement from that person.	• Aggravated Assault • Assault • Assault with Sexual Motivation • Battery • Domestic Violence • Elder Abuse	• Indecent Liberties • Rape • Sexual Assault • Sexual Battery • Trafficking • Voyeurism
Psychological Abuse is defined as verbal or emotional abuse causing suffering, emotional pain, or distress.	• Elder Abuse • Harassment • Hate Crimes • Malicious Harassment	• Stalking • Violation of No Contact/Protection Order

¹Adapted from: Stiegel, L. (2014). Legal issues related to elder abuse: A pocket guide for law enforcement. ABA Commission on Law & Aging and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (Complete document is available at <https://www.bja.gov/Publications/ABA-ElderAbuseGuide.pdf>), with input from Page Ulrey, King County Prosecutor.

Type of Abuse	Possible Charges
Neglect & Abandonment is defined as intentional or unintentional failure or refusal to provide care or help to an older adult to whom a duty of care is already owed. Abandonment can be an extreme form of neglect.	• Neglect • Abandonment • Elder Abuse • Felony Murder • Manslaughter • Murder • Negligent/Involuntary Homicide
Financial or Material Exploitation is defined as the illegal or improper use of an older person's money or property.	• Elder Abuse • Embezzlement • Exploitation • Forgery • Fraud (credit card, tax, or Medicaid) • Identity Theft • Larceny • Money Laundering • Obtaining a Signature by Force, Fraud or Coercion • Residential burglary • Theft • Theft of Motor Vehicle • Trafficking

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