

Elder Abuse

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During the workshop we looked at:

- The definition of abuse and different types of abuse
- How elder abuse fits into the HSE Vulnerable Adults Policy
- Some information from the UK (Care Act 2014)
- HSE Guidance on Advocacy (2014 Document)
- Case Study of a 98 year old American lady (Ms. Mary) who was physically, financially and sexually abused
- The role of the advocate who helped her and the case challenges
- The audience's response to the case study

Audience reactions to the film

- “I was horrified by the film.” “I was shocked to discover it was the abuser was her grandson.”
- Here in Ireland the sentence given to the perpetrator would be much shorter.
- It’s surprising the none of the neighbours noticed what was happening to Ms. Mary. She was completely isolated and treated like a slave.
- The outcome was tragic; she ended up having to go to a nursing home, which was the last place she wanted to go.



What personal supports could we offer?

- Would a helpline number on the pension book be helpful?
- Simply having a number, doesn't guarantee that the victim will phone the helpline.
- We could believe her story.
- A network of your peers is very, very important....strong social connections.
- Local people need to develop a culture of supporting older people.



What sort of myths or justifications might be used for the abuse?

- The grandson did not know what he was doing – he was “just drunk” – This does not excuse his behaviours
- She was not competent – this was not the case.
- Mary was a burden to her relations – not the case; she was a financial contributor.