

**NEWS RELEASE**  
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### **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 15**

**(Lawrence, KS)** – Dads around the country will be honored on this Father’s Day Sunday. Calls and visits will be exchanged, but while checking on Dad, are there other older adults in your community who are being overlooked?

June 15 is also World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department and Douglas County Senior Services encourages residents to check in on an older neighbor, friend or relative. To draw further attention to the issue, public service announcements addressing elder abuse have been running on local television channels.

According to the Department of Health & Human Services, between 1 and 2 million Americans age 65 or older are victims of elder abuse. It comes in many forms:

- Physical
- Sexual
- Emotional or psychological
- Financial or material exploitation
- Neglect or abandonment by those responsible for providing food, shelter, health care or protection for a vulnerable elder
- Self-neglect, characterized as the behavior of an elderly person that threatens his/her own health or safety

“If you have a concern that someone is being mistreated, then you should report it,” said Sandra Kelly-Allen, Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department’s Project LIVELY Coordinator.

“People are sometimes reluctant to report suspected abuse because they think they should have actual proof,” said Janet Ikenberry, Douglas County Senior Services Community Services Manager. “They should keep in mind that once the report is made, it is up to the professionals at Adult Protective Services to investigate and make the determination.”

In FY 2007, Adult Protective Services received 375 reports of suspected abuse, neglect and exploitation of Douglas County older adults. More than half of those reports were concerns of neglect.

If you suspect elder abuse, neglect or exploitation, call the Kansas City Metro Protection Reporting Center at 1-866-215-9077. The hotline is for both adult and child reports of abuse. Callers can remain anonymous.

For more information, visit the National Center on Elder Abuse's Web site:  
[www.ncea.aoa.gov](http://www.ncea.aoa.gov).

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