

***Criminal Investigation,***  
Seventh Edition

Chapter Thirteen  
Crimes Against the Elderly

# *Categories of Mistreatment*

- Passive Neglect – Unintentional failure to fulfill caretaking obligation.
- Psychological Abuse – The infliction of mental anguish.
- Active Neglect – Intentional failure to fulfill a caretaking obligation.
- Physical Abuse – The infliction of physical pain or injury or physical coercion.

# *Some Signs and Symptoms of Mistreatment or Abuse*

- In Caregivers:
  - New self-neglect.
  - Conflicting stories.
  - Mounting resentment.
  - Excusing failure.
  - Shifting blame.
  - Aggressive/defensive behavior.
  - Substance abuse.

# *Some Signs and Symptoms of Mistreatment or Abuse*

- In Older Persons:
  - Increasing depression.
  - Anxiety.
  - Withdrawn/timid.
  - Hostile.
  - Unresponsive.
  - Confused.
  - Physically injured.
  - New poverty.
  - Longing for death.
  - Vague health complaints.
  - Anxious to please.
  - Shopping for physicians.

# *Crimes Affecting the Elderly*

- Robbery and Purse Snatching:
  - Older persons are, in general, more easily victimized by robbers than are younger persons because of certain behavioral and psychological traits that tend to be associated with the aging process.
- Burglary:
  - Possibly more easily victimized.

# *Crimes Affecting the Elderly*

- Vandalism:
  - More easily targeted.
- Telemarketing Frauds:
  - Phantom Sweepstakes – the victim has won a prize and must send money to cover the taxes, etc.
  - Make-Believe Lotteries – the victim won.
  - Can't Miss Investments – Exploiting people's hopes of getting rich.

# *Crimes Affecting the Elderly*

- Telemarketing Frauds:
  - Something for Nothing – Collecting money for some product, such as shipping, etc.
  - Sham Charities – false charities.
  - Get Rich at Home Schemes – make big profits by working at home – selling products to make the money.
  - Double Trouble – a scam to recover money lost.

# *Crimes Affecting the Elderly*

- Telemarketing Frauds:
  - I'm Calling Where – use of a charge for call phone number to get people to call the number and then keep them on line while they are being billed for the call. The person will not know of the charges until the bill arrives.
  - Phony Customs Agents – notification that a large prize is waiting and that customs is calling.

# *Financial Abuse*

- Power of Attorney – this authorizes the person to act on behalf of another person.
- Forgery – signing another individuals name.
- Clues to Financial Abuse of the Elderly:
  - Unusual activity in a bank account.
  - New acquaintances of the elderly.
  - Loss of amenities.
  - New signees or unusual activity on credit cards.
  - Suspicious signatures on documents.

***The End***