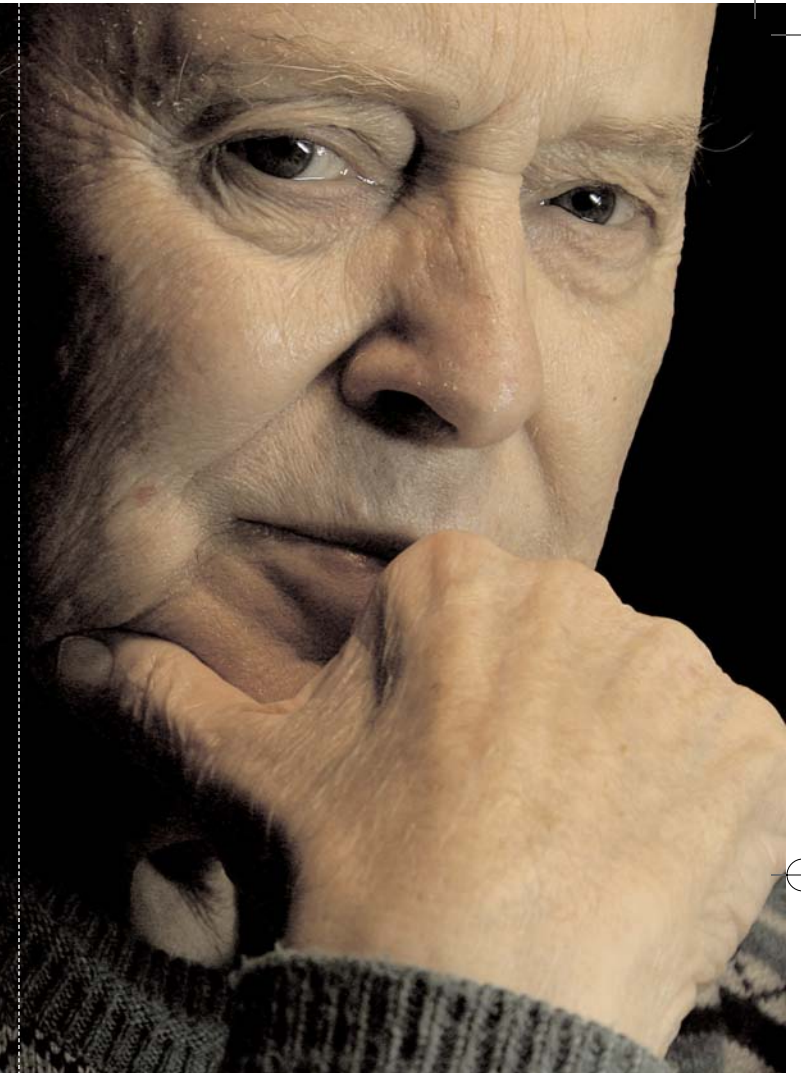


In 2005 more than 2.2 million Texans were age 65 or older, according to population projections. Nearly one out of five people have a disability, and almost one-half of people over 65 have a disability. Many live alone or are dependent on others for care.



Protecting Vulnerable Adults from Abuse, Neglect, Financial Exploitation, or Isolation is Everyone's Business.



As you see yourself, I once saw myself; as you see me now, you will be seen.

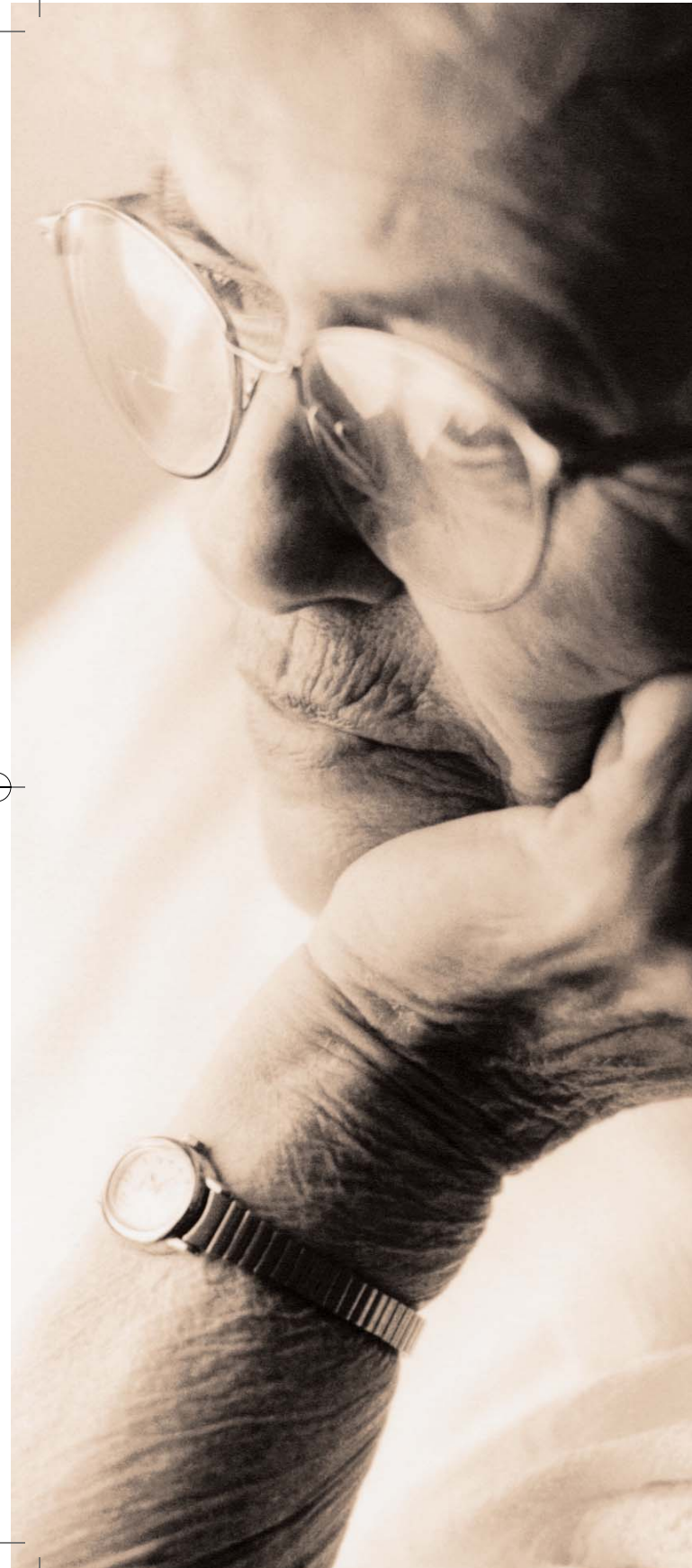
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Adult Protective Services
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
www.dfps.state.tx.us
Stock Code: 20852-0000
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Protecting Vulnerable Adults
Is Everyone's Business
www.everyonesbusiness.org

Elder Abuse Prevention Campaign
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
Adult Protective Services



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Adult Protective Services (APS) investigates allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of the elderly or adults with disabilities. When maltreatment is confirmed, APS provides or arranges services in an attempt to alleviate the problem. APS is dedicated to ensuring the health and safety of vulnerable adults in Texas.

Many people who are elderly or have disabilities live alone or are dependent on others for their care. Isolation is a factor that places vulnerable adults at risk for abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Make it your mission to remember the elderly and adults with disabilities in your community.

As the public becomes more aware of vulnerable adults and their needs, APS will continue to see an increase in the number of reports. More than half of all cases reported to APS involve neglect. Most involve self-neglect. Through illness or diminished mental capacity, vulnerable adults may no longer be able to provide adequately for their own health and safety. They may live in unsanitary conditions, without heat or running water, or may need assistance with meals and other daily activities. They may also require medical care.

Possible Indicators or Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation

Physical Signs

- ◆ Injury that is inconsistent with the explanation
- ◆ Pain from touching
- ◆ Dehydration or malnutrition not caused by illness
- ◆ Poor color, sunken eyes or cheeks

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- ◆ Inappropriate administration of medication
- ◆ Soiled clothing or bed
- ◆ Lack of necessities such as food, water or utilities
- ◆ Lack of personal effects and comfort in living environment

Behavioral Signs

- ◆ Fear, anxiety, agitation, anger, withdrawn, depression
- ◆ Non-responsiveness, resignation, ambivalence
- ◆ Contradictory statements, implausible stories
- ◆ Hesitation to talk openly
- ◆ Confused or disoriented

Caregiver Signs

- ◆ Prevents vulnerable adult from speaking to or seeing others
- ◆ Anger, indifference, aggressiveness toward vulnerable adult
- ◆ History of substance abuse, mental illness, criminal behavior, or family violence
- ◆ Conflicting accounts of incidents
- ◆ Talks of vulnerable adult as a burden

Signs of Financial Exploitation

- ◆ Frequent expensive gifts from vulnerable adult to caregiver
- ◆ Missing personal belongings, papers, credit cards
- ◆ Unpaid bills, unusual activity in bank account
- ◆ Caregiver's name added to bank account

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- ◆ Frequent checks made out to "cash"
- ◆ Documents (will, loan, etc.) signed when vulnerable adult seems incapable of understanding
- ◆ Irregularities on tax return
- ◆ Vulnerable adult unaware of reason for appointment with banker or attorney
- ◆ Caregiver's refusal to spend money on vulnerable adult
- ◆ Signatures on documents that do not resemble vulnerable adult's

When you suspect abuse, neglect, or exploitation, report it to the **Texas Abuse Hotline** at **1-800-252-5400** or report the incident online at <https://www.txabusehotline.org>. If you believe it is a life-threatening emergency, dial 911.

