

Signs and symptoms of Adult Abuse

Here's a reminder of the signs and symptoms of adult abuse.



Physical

- Unexplained injury
- Injury does not match the explanation
- Flinching
- Unwilling to cooperate with personal care
- Bruising in shape of object or finger marks
- Inappropriate clothing, e.g. sweater in summer



Sexual

- Self-harm
- Inappropriate sexual behaviour
- Sadness
- Depression
- Loss of self-esteem
- Unusual vaginal, anal or oral discharge
- Unforeseen pregnancy
- Sexually transmitted infections

Emotional

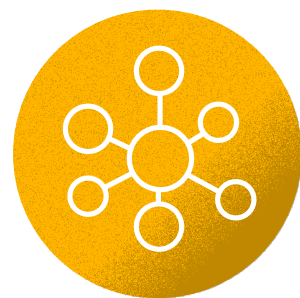
All types of abuse result in emotional abuse

- Poor self-esteem
- Mental health problems
- Substance misuse



Financial

- Unexplained withdrawals from their bank account
- Unexplained shortage of money
- Losing bank statements or other documents
- Losing valuables
- Inability to explain what is happening to their income
- Unpaid bills
- Sudden inability to pay bills
- Loans or credit that give cause for concern



Organisational or institutional

- Unkempt and dirty
- Unusually subdued
- Anxiety and fear of carers
- Drowsiness
- Restrictions to going out or visitors
- Limited freedom to move



Discriminatory

- Unequal treatment
- Verbal abuse
- Slurs
- Harassment
- Deliberate exclusion
- Physical abuse or assault
- Hate crimes



Self-neglect

- Inappropriate clothing for time of year
- Offensive aromas
- Inadequate food and drink in fridge
- Failure to engage with medical practitioners
- Poor home conditions
- Parasite or rodent infestations
- Hoarding items



Neglect by others

- Unusual weight loss
- Dehydration
- Malnutrition
- Untreated physical problems
- Unsanitary living conditions
- Abandonment in a public place
- Meals and drinks not touched – do they need assistance?



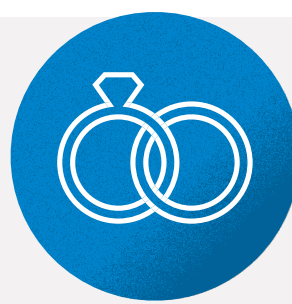
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

- Difficulty walking, sitting or standing
- Spending longer than usual in the bathroom
- Reluctance to undergo particular medical examinations



Forced marriage

- History in the family
- Not being allowed to leave the house
- Attempts to run away from home
- Constant monitoring by the family
- Request for extended leave of absence
- Failure to return from country of origin after holidays
- Fear of forthcoming holidays
- Being withdrawn from education
- More frequent absence from school for long periods of time
- Attempted suicide or suicidal tendencies



For more safeguarding resources visit
www.virtual-college.co.uk