Possible Indicators of Elder Abuse

Physical/Sexual Abuse
Possible Indicators:
- Cuts, lacerations, punctures, bruises, welts, discolorations, grip marks
- Any unexplained injury that doesn’t fit with the given explanation
- Any injury which has not been properly cared for
- Burns, possibly caused by cigarettes, caustics, acids or friction from ropes or chains

Neglect
Possible Indicators:
- Dirt, fecal/urine smell or other health and safety hazards in adult’s living environment
- Rashes, sores, lice on the adult
- Soiled clothing or bed linens

Verbal Abuse
Possible Indicators:
- Humiliating, insulting, or threatening language being used by caregiver
- Being extremely withdrawn and non-responsive or non-communicative
- Subtle signs of intimidation – deferring questions to caregiver/abuser

Abandonment, Seclusion or Restraint
Possible Indicators:
- An adult’s report of not being allowed to see or speak with people who they would reasonably see or speak with
- Not allowed to use the telephone or receive/send mail
- A person’s own report of being abandoned

When, Where and What to Report
- Report Immediately to DHS or local law enforcement agency
- Give as much information as possible /explain allegation of abuse

DHS Reporting Hotline: 1-855-503-SAFE(7233)