



# ELDER ABUSE TASK FORCE

Thank you for your continued interest in Michigan's Elder Abuse Task Force – an alliance representing more than 55 different organizations in the public, private, and non-profit sectors – all working together to reduce barriers facing our aging population.

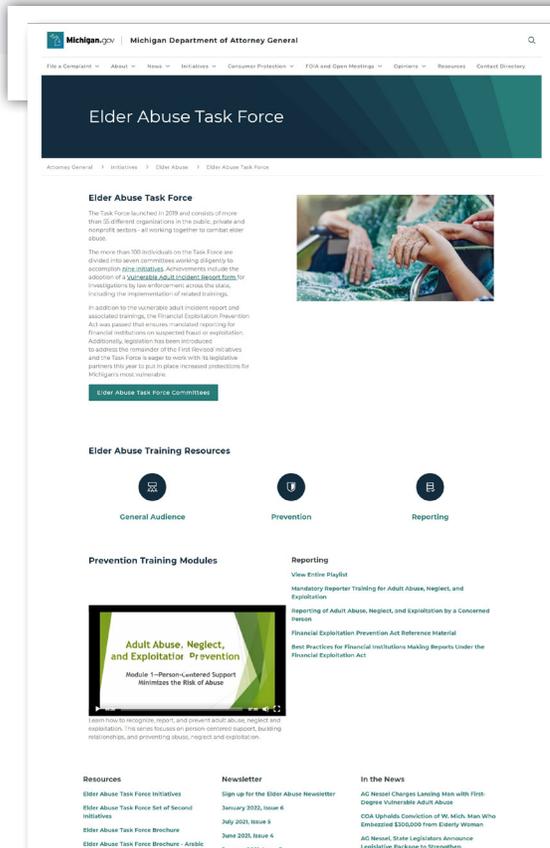
## ELDER ABUSE TASK FORCE WEBSITE GETS NEW LOOK

The [Elder Abuse Task Force page](#) on the [Department of Attorney General website](#) now has a streamlined, easy-to-navigate layout and includes information on the attorney general's elder abuse initiatives, training modules on how to recognize elder abuse, as well as a link to [download the Vulnerable Adult Incident Report form](#) for reporting suspected elder abuse.

Visitors will navigate to the new Elder Abuse page by accessing the menu in the upper left of the Attorney General's page.

All information regarding Michigan's response to elder abuse, including the Elder Abuse Task Force, will be housed on this page.

The new Elder Abuse page will also contain links to current and previous Elder Abuse Task Force newsletters.



## ELDER ABUSE LEGISLATION

Our first and second set of initiatives have been fine-tuned into legislation and we hope our Guardianship/Conservatorship Bills, which have already been presented to the legislature, will receive a vote in the House very soon.

Legislation implementing our second initiatives will follow shortly.

## SENTINEL PROJECT

The work of our Sentinel Project, which uses discreet but comprehensive site visits to investigate complaints of neglect and abuse, have led to charges filed against an unlicensed nurse employed by a nursing home in Sterling Heights. These are the first charges filed since the Sentinel Project was created last April. While most facilities visited provide appropriate care, abide by licensing regulations, and follow the law, the Sentinel Project will continue to work collaboratively with the industry and regulatory partners to achieve the best results for Michigan residents who reside in nursing homes.

## THE ELDER ABUSE TASK FORCE – WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE ARE DOING

The Elder Abuse Task Force's website now features a 50-minute presentation on the history of the task force, our current initiatives, and how the public can access the many task force resources. [The session was open to the public and about 100 individuals participated.](#)

### UNDERSTANDING THE FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION PREVENTION ACT

The Financial Exploitation Prevention Act (FEPA) is a task force accomplishment born from the first slate of initiatives. Passed in December 2020 and taking effect in September 2021, this piece of legislation is the culmination of more than two years of work on the part of the task force and its members. It provides substantial protection for a vulnerable adult's finances by making banks and credit unions mandated reporters of financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult. [Watch the task force's recently posted Financial Exploitation Prevent Act presentation to learn more.](#)

### MAY AND JUNE VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUMS

On the morning of May 4, 2022, and the afternoon of June 9, 2022, the [Elder Abuse Task Force and its panel of experts will hold three-hour virtual symposiums](#) on topics relevant to protecting Michigan's seniors. Both symposiums are open to the public, will feature a welcome from [Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel](#), and will be taped for future availability on the task force's website.

The May event is designed for members of the public and begins by featuring a short presentation on resources available to protect older adults. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services follows with a session on the basics of Adult Protective Services. A representative from the [Michigan Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program](#), which advocates for the passage of laws, regulations, and policies that benefit the more than 100,000 long-term care facility residents who live in Michigan, will explain its program and services. The May event also features an attorney who will explain how to avoid guardianships and conservatorships. The morning will conclude with a consumer protection expert presenting information about scams that target older adults.

June's symposium is aimed at professionals who work with older adults. An attorney will begin the afternoon with a talk about community resources for survivors of elder abuse. An Adult Protective Services representative will talk about mandatory reporters and their investigation process. The Michigan Long Term Care Ombudsman will be available for any questions from professionals. June's afternoon symposium also features an assistant attorney general addressing how to spot vulnerable adults and financial exploitation. And, finally, the symposium will end with a presentation on concrete scam prevention techniques that professionals can share with those they serve.

The symposiums will have a Q & A session following each topic. Although not essential for participation, individuals are encouraged to [register for one or both of the EATF's symposiums.](#)

### Nursing Home Resident Rights

The Elder Abuse Task Force's website also now features a 10-minute presentation on nursing home resident rights. [Posted in late March, the presentation already has over 300 views.](#)

Every nursing home resident has the right:

- To be free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- To be free from discrimination.
- To keep personal items in their room.
- To know their health status and see their records.
- To communicate and receive notices and information in a language they understand.
- To direct and receive the care they want and need.
- To have privacy during treatment and the care of their personal needs.
- To be free from physical or chemical restraints.
- To self-determination and agency regarding reasonable accommodation of their needs and preferences.
- To manage their own money.
- To leave the nursing home if they choose.
- To appeal a notice of transfer or discharge.
- To express concerns about the quality of care and/or violations of their rights without fear of retribution.

The Elder Abuse Task Force is dedicated to ensuring that each one of these rights is respected and valued. Concerns regarding violations of any of these rights can be reported to the nursing home staff, the [Michigan Licensing and Regulatory Affairs agency](#), or the [Michigan Attorney General's Office](#). Complaints can also be filed with the [Michigan Long-Term Care Ombudsman program](#) online or by phone at 866-485-9393.



**To Report:**  
**855-444-3911**  
[mi.gov/protectiveservices](http://mi.gov/protectiveservices)

**For Questions:**  
**800-24-ABUSE (22873)**  
[mi.gov/elderabuse](http://mi.gov/elderabuse)