



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Franklin County recognizes June as World Elder Abuse Awareness Month**

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners and the Franklin County Office on Aging are working to bring awareness to elder abuse in our community by recognizing June as World Elder Abuse Month and today, June 15, 2010, as World Elder Abuse Day.

Elder abuse refers to intentional or neglectful acts by a caregiver or trusted individual that has or may lead to harm of a vulnerable elder. Physical abuse, neglect, emotional or psychological abuse, verbal abuse and threats, financial abuse and exploitation, sexual abuse and abandonment are all forms of elder abuse. This abuse to our seniors can occur anywhere and affects older men and women across all economic groups, cultures and races.

“Our seniors in Franklin County deserve to live safely without worrying about their health or welfare,” said Commission President John O’Grady. “We should work together as a community to heighten the awareness of and put a stop to this abuse.”

“Abuse of any type should not be tolerated or hidden in our community, regardless of age,” said Commissioner Paula Brooks. “There are confidential ways to report suspected abuse or even neglect. Just call our Franklin County Office on Aging for help for a neighbor, a friend or a family member if you are concerned. It’s always better to be safe than sorry.”

“As the baby boomer generation ages, Franklin County is becoming home to more seniors,” said Commissioner Marilyn Brown. “It’s so important that we learn to recognize the signs of elder abuse and speak out if we suspect someone we know or love is a victim.”

Aging should be a positive and rewarding experience for all. During the month of June the Franklin County Office on Aging offers these common myths about abuse and neglect to increase the awareness regarding what constitutes elder abuse and the different types of abuse which unfortunately take place in society.

**Common Myths about Abuse and Neglect of Older Persons**

1. Abuse and neglect of older adults is rare.
2. Mistreatment in later life only happens to people who are very frail.

3. Some cultures are “immune” to abuse; they always respect their older members.
4. Mistreatment in later life only happens to older women, older people who are isolated or older people with disabilities.
5. Sometimes an older person “chooses” to be abused or neglected by staying in an abusive relationship.
6. Most abuse of older adults involves physical abuse.
7. Most abuse of older adults occurs in nursing homes.
8. Most abuse in later life involves stressed families giving care.

If you have experienced elder abuse tell someone. If someone you know is being hurt or abused, please call Franklin County Adult Protective Services at (614) 462-4348.