

Types of Abuse and Neglect

Physical [WIC 15610.63]

Physical abuse is the non-accidental use of force against a person that results in physical pain, injury, or impairment. Such abuse includes not only physical assaults such as hitting or shoving, but the inappropriate use of drugs, restraints or other confinement, and sexual assault. Specific examples include infliction of physical pain or injury; physical coercion; confinement; slapping, bruising, cutting, lacerating, burning, restraining, pushing, shoving; sexual assault, battery, rape, or forcing a person to undress or watch sex acts; prolonged or continual deprivation of food or water. Unexplained bruises, welts, or scars; broken bones, sprains or dislocations; broken eyeglasses or frames; and physical signs of restraints may be indications of physical abuse.

Financial [WIC 15610.30]

Financial abuse is the unauthorized use of a person's funds or property and can include misuse of personal checks, credit cards, or accounts; stealing cash, income checks, or household goods; forging of signatures on financial documents; identity theft, extortion, or fraud; telephone, mail, home repair, or other scams. Sudden changes in financial condition, significant withdrawals from accounts, missing items or cash, and unnecessary services, goods, or subscriptions may be indications of financial abuse.

Abduction [WIC 15610.06]

Abduction abuse is the removal of someone from the state of California or prohibiting the return of someone to California. This would include forcing an elderly or disabled person to move to a different state against his/her will.

Abandonment [WIC 15610.05]

Abandonment is the desertion by a person who has assumed responsibility for providing care for an individual under circumstances where a reasonable person would continue to provide care and custody.

Isolation [WIC 15610.43]

Isolation includes acts intentionally committed to prevent receipt of mail, telephone calls, or contact with family, friends, or people concerned about the person's well-being; and false imprisonment. This may lead to withholding emotional support and loss of companionship.

Mental Suffering [WIC 15610.53]

Mental suffering means intentionally causing agitation, confusion, severe depression, or other forms of serious emotional distress brought on by verbal assaults, threats, harassment, or deceptive acts.

Neglect/Self-Neglect [WIC 15610.57]

Neglect is the failure to fulfill a caretaking obligation and constitutes more than half of all reported cases of elder abuse. It includes failure of the responsible person to provide basic needs such as food, water, personal care, shelter, and medical care, or the failure to protect from health and safety hazards. It is self-neglect if an elder or dependent adult cannot satisfy the needs listed above as a result of poor cognitive functioning, mental limitation, substance abuse, or chronic poor health.

A more detailed description of the types of abuse listed above is available in the State of California's **Welfare and Institutions Code Section 15610-15610.67** which can be accessed at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=wic&group=15001-16000&file=15610-15610.67>