

CENTER 4

ELDER JUSTICE  
& ADVOCACY

JUSTICE FOR ALL

JUSTICE  
FOR ALL

[www.4allfoundation.org](http://www.4allfoundation.org)

# THE VALUE OF JUSTICE AS WE AGE

Our aging society is like a building. If the foundation and structure are strong, older adults can live their lives free from harm and worry. If the foundation is weak or the support beams unstable, then the people inside the building are not secure. Our social structure is not as strong as it should be, especially for older adults. We need social supports and reinforcements to ensure that we can all participate in society and live free of neglect and abuse as we age.

## WHO WE ARE

4 ALL Foundation is the 501c3 nonprofit of Middle Alabama Area Agency on Aging (M4A), one of Alabama's local area agencies on aging. The mission of 4 ALL Foundation is to support and advocate for the dignity of all people.

## WHAT WE DO

4ALL Foundation has three primary functions. We provide:

1

support so people can  
live well and age well in  
their communities

2

education on aging

3

resources to prevent  
adult mistreatment

## OUR VISION

*An Alabama where all people  
can live and age with dignity,  
security, and independence.*

To this end, 4 ALL has established three

**Centers for Excellence:**

**The Center 4 Critical Needs**

**The Training 4 Aging Center**

**The Center 4 Elder Justice & Advocacy**

CENTER

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# ELDER JUSTICE & ADVOCACY

## OUR MISSION

*to meet the diverse elder justice needs of Alabama's older adults through:*

- Elder Services
- Public Education and Outreach
- Professional Training
- Serving as Alabama's Elder Justice Resource Center

## WE ARE A TRUSTED RESOURCE

that seeks to improve long-term health, social, and functional status; enhance autonomy and independence; and mitigate the risks of recurrent abuse, so older individuals can remain safe and independent in their local communities as they age.

## HELPING OLDER ADULTS AGE IN PLACE

The Center for Elder Justice & Advocacy works to build a stronger social structure around older adults, so we can reduce isolation and stop abuse and neglect before they start. We all want to age in place with dignity, respect, and independence.

People with Alzheimer's Disease or Related Dementia are at a much greater risk of adult mistreatment and providing care to a loved one with dementia can be a daunting task. The Center places a special focus to support family caregivers and provide the assistance and tools they need to better care for their loved ones as they go through their caregiving journey.



# ELDER ABUSE & MISTREATMENT

In our society, older people, for example, are often isolated and alone, which increases the likelihood of neglect and abuse. We can create a more just society for all people—regardless of our age—by building a stronger social structure. Elder abuse is a serious health pandemic that we all should care about and eliminate in Alabama.

*Elder Abuse Affects All of Us.*

## Elder Abuse Defined

**Physical Abuse** The infliction of physical pain, injury, or the willful deprivation by a caregiver or other person of services necessary to maintain mental and physical health.

**Emotional Abuse** The willful or reckless infliction of emotional or mental anguish or the use of a physical or chemical restraint, medication, or isolation as punishment or as a substitute for treatment or care of any protected person.

**Exploitation** The expenditure, diminution, or use of the property, assets, or resources of a protected person without the express voluntary consent of that person or his or her legally authorized representative.

**Neglect and Self-Neglect** The failure of a caregiver to provide food, shelter, clothing, medical services, or health care for the person unable to care for himself or herself; or the failure of the person to provide these basic needs for himself or herself when the failure is a result of the person's mental or physical inability.

**Sexual Abuse** Any conduct that is a crime as defined in Sections 13A-6-60 to 13A-6-70, inclusive, which may include rape, sodomy, or sexual abuse by forcible compulsion or incapacity of the victim or indecent exposure.

# THE WARNING SIGNS

## Physical Abuse

Unexplained fractures, bruises, welts, cuts, sores, burns, torn or bloody undergarments

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## Emotional Abuse

Unexplained or uncharacteristic changes in behavior, such as withdrawal from normal activities, or unexplained changes in alertness

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## Social Isolation

Caregiver is verbally aggressive or demeaning, controlling, overly concerned about spending money, or uncaring

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## Exploitation

- Person with a caregiver, guardian/conservator whose personal needs are not being met
  - Elder giving excessive financial reimbursement/gifts for needed care and companionship
  - Caregiver has control of elder's finances but fails to provide for elder's needs
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## Neglect (and Self-Neglect)

- Lack of basic hygiene, adequate food, or clean and appropriate clothing, medical aids (glasses, walker, dentures, hearing aid, medications)
- Person with dementia left unsupervised
- Person confined to a bed left without care
- Home cluttered, filthy, in state of disrepair, or with fire and safety hazards
- Home without adequate facilities (stove, refrigerator, heating, cooling, working plumbing, and electricity)
- Untreated pressure "bed" sores (pressure ulcers)



# TO REPORT ELDER ABUSE & MISTREATMENT

Alabama Department of Human Resources  
Adult Protective Services

**Adult Abuse Hotline:**

**1-800-458-7214**

**[aps@dhr.alabama.gov](mailto:aps@dhr.alabama.gov)**

Reports can also be made to a  
County Department of Human Resources  
or local law enforcement.

*Reports can be made anonymously.*

Alabama has 13 local Area Agencies on Aging which share a mission to help adults live and age well at home, and specialize in resources, services and information for older adults, persons with disabilities and caregivers.

**Call your local Area Agency on Aging at (800) AGE-LINE  
or visit the state website at [www.AlabamaAgeline.gov](http://www.AlabamaAgeline.gov).**

The Middle Alabama Area Agency on Aging (M4A) serves Blount, Chilton, Shelby, St. Clair, and Walker counties.



ASSISTING  
ALL AGES AT  
ALL STAGES

## ABOUT OUR OTHER CENTERS FOR EXCELLENCE:

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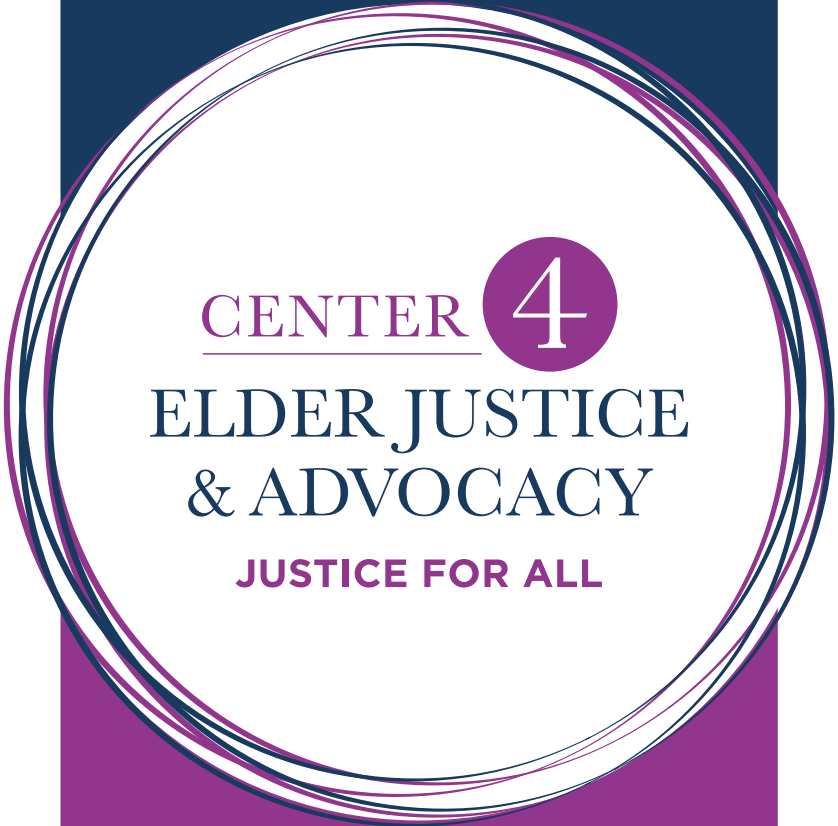
CENTER **4**  
CRITICAL  
NEEDS  
HELP FOR ALL

**The Center for Critical Needs** offers help to people with critical needs that cannot be met by an existing program or service. Referrals may come from the M4A Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC), professionals, and the general public. The Center for Critical Needs can assist with basic life needs such as emergency food, shelter, medication assistance, medical supplies, and utility assistance if funds are available.

TRAINING  
**4** AGING  
CENTER  
EDUCATION FOR ALL

**The Training for Aging Center** serves as the primary aging education and training platform for older adults, professionals, caregivers, and the general public on age-related topics. Training programs made available currently include Dementia Friendly Training for First Responders, Brain Health, and Elder Abuse Prevention training.  
**[www.training4aging.org](http://www.training4aging.org)**

**[www.4allfoundation.org](http://www.4allfoundation.org)**



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**JUSTICE FOR ALL**



Scan to donate or go to  
**[www.4allfoundation.org](http://www.4allfoundation.org)**  
**(205) 490-8448**

