

Table 10.4 Warning Signs of Elder Abuse or Neglect

- Presence of a “new best friend” who is willing to care for the elder for little or no cost
- Recent changes in banking or spending patterns
- The older person is isolated from friends and family
- The elder’s caregiver has problems with drugs, alcohol, anger, and/or emotional instability
- The caregiver is financially dependent on the elder
- The family pet seems neglected or abused
- There is an abundance of mail and/or phone solicitations for money
- The elder seems afraid of the caregiver
- The elder has unexplained bruises, cuts, or other injuries
- The elder has “bed sores” (i.e., pressure sores from lying in one position for too long)
- The elder appears dirty, undernourished, dehydrated, over- or under-medicated, or is not receiving care for problems with eyesight, hearing, dental issues, or incontinence

If you suspect an elder is at risk of abuse or neglect, call your local Adult Protective Services or Office on Aging. You can find the numbers for your state at <http://www.ncea.aoa.gov>.

SOURCE: National Center on Elder Abuse (n.d.).