

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services  
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## **Victim service providers and public invited to training on elder abuse on June 18 in Hettinger**

BISMARCK, N.D. – Even in our close-knit, family-focused state, vulnerable adults can be abused, neglected and financially exploited. Adams County Social Services has organized training about abuse later in life on June 18 at United Methodist Church in Hettinger. Representatives of agencies and organizations from the southwest region who work with victims are encouraged to attend; the public is also welcome to attend the no-cost training.

Experts will provide training on the dynamics of abuse in later life from 8 to 10 a.m. and how to provide a victim-centered response from 10:10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The training sessions will be repeated from 1 to 3 p.m. and 3:10 to 5 p.m. Attendees will also learn the importance of awareness and collaboration between agencies that provide services to older adults, their families and caregivers.

Speakers include Abby Beumer, a representative of the Alzheimer's Association; Michelle Gayette, assistant director of the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Aging Service Division, and Ambria Neshem, the *Abuse in Later Life Grant* coordinator with the Abused Adult Resource Center in Bismarck.

The training is sponsored with support from the federal *Abuse Later in Life Grant*. Light refreshments will be served.

According to Gayette, the North Dakota Department of Human Services received 1,921 reports of suspected abuse, neglect or financial exploitation of vulnerable adults in 2017, which was a 10 percent increase from 2016. Individuals involved included total strangers, such as in the Jamaican lottery scam situation, as well as trusted individuals including family members and other caregivers and people in positions of trust and authority.

For information about the training, contact Adams County Social Services at 701-567-2967.

To report suspected abuse, neglect or financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult, please call toll-free 1-855-462-5465 (1-855-GO2LINK) or report the concern online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/services/adultsaging/reporting.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/adultsaging/reporting.html). Call 911 if someone is in immediate danger and needs emergency services.

Vulnerable Adult Protective Services are available statewide through the Department of Human Services' regional human service centers and local contracted partner agencies. Program details, including information about how to report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation are available online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/services/adultsaging/vulnerable.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/adultsaging/vulnerable.html).

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