EAGLE
Elder Abuse Guide for Law Enforcement

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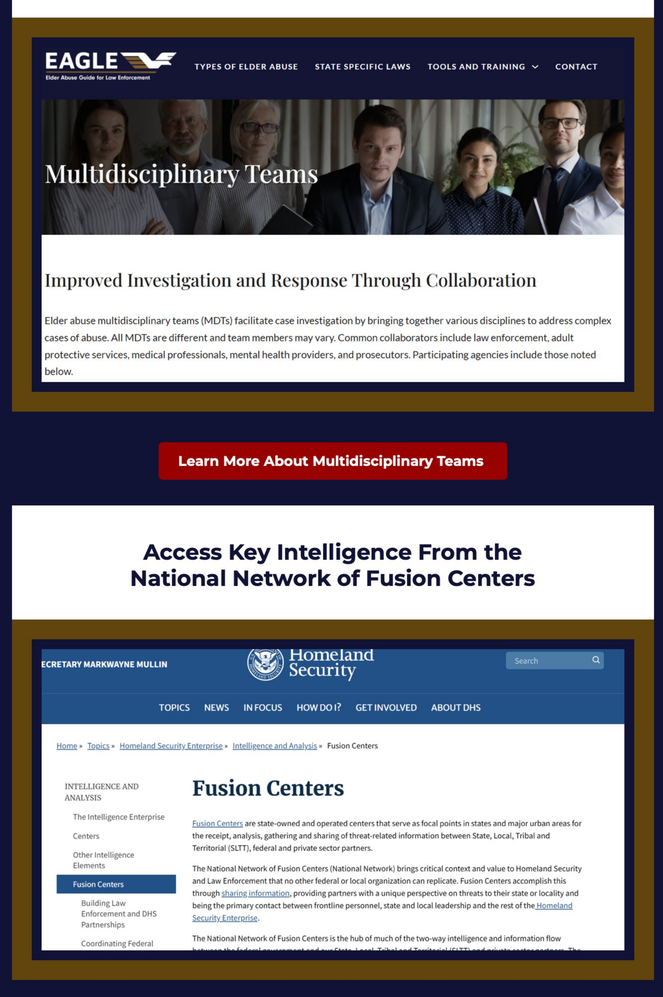
Newsletter

Enhance Your Investigations Through Multidisciplinary Collaboration

Draw on the Expertise of Multidisciplinary Partners



Learn More About Multidisciplinary Teams

Access Key Intelligence From the National Network of Fusion Centers

Find the Fusion Center in Your Area

Work Closely with Your Prosecutor in Interviews and Investigations

Interview Guide for Investigators

Conducting Recorded Interviews to Document Cognitive Status in Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Cases

Purpose and Use

This guide supports investigators in conducting recorded supplemental interviews (focused follow-up interviews after the initial victim interview) to capture evidence of an older victim's cognitive status close in time to the incident. The responses that you receive will help build a clearer picture of the victim and may assist prosecution when decision-making capacity is relevant.

This guide is not a substitute for professional judgment, full victim interviews, or expert assessments. Nor does it provide legal advice. Work closely with prosecutors to align interview goals and case strategy.

Why Record Interviews?

- Early recordings preserve critical evidence of a victim's capacity near the time of the incident; Cases can take months or years to reach trial - timely documentation is essential
- Recordings may help support or rebut consent claims, though rules vary by jurisdiction
- Orientation segment of the recording (orientation questions) is usually admissible at trial to show the victim's state of mind (not to prove the truth of the matter asserted)
- Impact segment of the recording (impact of the crime) is primarily intended for use at sentencing

Before the Interview: Work Closely with the Prosecutor

- Confirm that the recording is appropriate and part of the prosecutorial strategy
- Discuss the topics to explore and how the recording will be used
- Clarify local rules about consent to record and evidence handling
- Ask the prosecutor whether to include financial, medical, or impact questions
- Explain the purpose of the interview and that it is being recorded

Prepare the Victim

- Let the victim know that it is okay if they don't understand or remember everything; They can pause or stop the interview at any time
- Ask if the victim has questions before starting

Find the Interview Guide

Obtain the Expertise of Forensic Accountants

Forensic Accountants and Multidisciplinary Teams

Elder mistreatment is a multifactorial and nuanced phenomenon, often involving intersecting medical, legal, social, financial, and familial issues. Given the complexity of cases, response and redress often require the expertise of inter-sectorial professionals. Elder abuse multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) are an evidence-based intervention designed to enable collaborative case discussion, coordination, and resolution among professionals who might otherwise operate in silos. Through regular meetings and shared insights, participating MDT members recommend options for relief to promote victim safety, mitigate ongoing harm, and prevent reoccurrence.

MDT

MDTs vary in size, scope, process, and composition. Types of MDTs include Financial Abuse Specialist Teams, Elder Death Review Teams, enhanced MDTs (E-MDTs), and forensic centers. Core members vary based upon community needs and available resources. MDTs often include adult protective service (APS) caseworkers, long-term care ombudsmen, victim advocates, law enforcement agencies, geriatricians, psychologists, mental health professionals, civil attorneys, and prosecutors. Over the past ten years, the increasing integration of forensic accounting services and tools by teams nationwide has enhanced the investigation and resolution of cases involving elder financial exploitation.

Elder Financial Exploitation

Elder financial exploitation (EFE) is one of the fastest growing and most prevalent forms of elder mistreatment nationwide. It is estimated that between 5% and 11% of older adults experience EFE each year.[1]

An estimated $28.3 billion is stolen from older adults each year. Of that, 72% is attributable to exploitation by known others, such as friends, family, and caregivers, and 28% perpetrated by strangers.

In 2023, over 101,000 victims aged 60 and over reported financial fraud to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center, resulting in **over $3.4 billion in losses, a 14% escalation in complaints** from prior year reports.[2]

Only $7.8 billion of the stolen funds are reported to authorities.[3]

Access the Fact Sheet and Toolkit

Register for the National Elder Justice Prosecutors' Summit October 14-15, Washington, DC

Registration Information

Briefings

Grand Prairie bookkeeper indicted for allegedly embezzling $1.2 million from older couple	Read more
Bank imposter sentenced for defrauding older victims of hundreds of thousands of dollars	Read more
Former bank employee who targeted older victims in identity theft and fraud scheme sentenced to a decade in prison	Read more

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