

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

**PROCLAMATION NO.**

Proclaiming June 23, 2016 as Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Multnomah County.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:**

1. Every year, an estimated 5 million older Americans are victims of elder abuse. The act takes many forms, including physical abuse, neglect, exploitation, and abandonment.
2. A May 2015, policy brief issued by the White House Conference on Aging determined elder abuse is a serious public health problem affecting millions of older Americans, with some studies suggesting that as few as one in 23 cases is reported to authorities.
3. The effects of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation cause widespread social problems. It is overwhelmingly perpetrated by the victims' own family members, with victims tending to be older, frail, and often dependent on their abusers for basic life sustaining care.
4. Recognizing the need for action, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was started in 2006 to mark adoption of United Nations International Plan of Action on Aging. The plan recognizes the significance of elder abuse as a public health and human rights issue.
5. Multnomah County, in collaboration with federal, state, and other local partners are working diligently to tackle elder abuse in our community.
6. Multnomah County's Adult Protective Services conducts regular investigations into allegations of abuse, self-neglect, and financial exploitation of seniors who live either in a care facility or in their own home. The County's Gatekeeper Program trains individuals to identify signs that would indicate a need for assistance of a vulnerable adult.
7. The County Public Guardian/Conservator program protects individuals who are profoundly mentally incapacitated, unable to care for themselves, and at a high risk due to abuse, exploitation, or extreme self-neglect. Having a guardian can mean the difference between life and death for these individuals.
8. The Interagency Committee for Abuse Prevention (ICAP) – composed of judges, law enforcement representatives, the district attorney's office, adult protective services staff, the State Attorney General's Office, and others – meets regularly to discuss elder abuse issues.

9. ICAP has developed a set of goals to pursue over the coming years that will strengthen efforts to prevent elder abuse. These goals include exploring the development of a virtual elder abuse forensic center, establishing court accommodations for seniors and people with disabilities, and developing an elder abuse fatality review team
10. Multnomah County is committed to establishing a community where all seniors are treated with the respect and dignity that will enable them to continue to serve as leaders, mentors, volunteers, and essential members of our county.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:**

1. June 23, 2016, as Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Multnomah County. We urge all public agencies, the private sector, advocates and citizens to commit to building safer communities for our elder residents.

**ADOPTED this 23 day of June, 2016.**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

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Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:  
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

**SUBMITTED BY:** Commissioner Judy Shiprack, District 3