



DOVE Program Tracking Elder Abuse Problems

Elder abuse is becoming more widespread and a serious issue nationwide as well as on the White Earth Reservation. We are seeing elders being abused financially, emotionally, and physically, which includes being restrained, slapped, punched, and twisting of limbs, as well as sexual abuse/assault.

Emotional abuse includes threats of being put in a nursing home or of abandonment and leaving them alone to fend for themselves when assistance is needed. The withholding of essential needs such as food, heat, healthcare and the misuse of the elders' medications is also a form of abuse/neglect.

Isolation and the confinement of our elders, which is keeping them at home with no option of socializing and controlling what the elder does and where they go, all of these things can contribute to depression and is a form of power and control, which is abuse.

Our heritage has always had a built in respect for our elders. It is time that the elders begin to demand and take back that respect. The people of our communities need to be a part of this process and need to be reminded that a respect for elders as well as self and others is very much needed in our society today.

You, as a community member can stand up and help make necessary changes and demand this respect for our elders and to let others know that we will not stand by while an elder is being abused or neglected in any way, shape or form.

The DOVE program has received funding to do intensive work with our elders that may be abused or neglected. We want the elders and all of the people of the community know that we will reach out to provide services needed for our elders care and wellbeing. We need to give them back their pride and ability to smile again.

For more information on elder abuse or for services, please call Ivy at 1-218-935-5554. Ext. 3239 or if there is an emergency situation, please call the DOVE 24 Hour Crisis Line at 1-877-830-DOVE(3683).