



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY  
*Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona*

# News Release

Clarence H. Carter, Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Everyone plays a role in preventing vulnerable adult abuse**

*World Elder Abuse Awareness Day highlights the community's role in prevention*

PHOENIX – The Department of Economic Security (DES) announced today it will recognize Saturday, June 15, 2013 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day by calling on the Arizona community to do its part in prevention, recognizing and reporting the abuse of vulnerable adults.

Between July 2012 and May 2013, the DES Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) investigated 10,104 cases of adult abuse, neglect or exploitation in Arizona. This is an all-time high and represents a 25 percent increase in the total number of cases over the same period last year.

“Elder abuse is a community problem that everyone can play a part in preventing,” said Director Clarence Carter. “Participation and awareness in the community will help ensure that our vulnerable adults are protected.”

Several events are scheduled around Arizona that will highlight this growing problem and will include ways that people can prevent vulnerable adult abuse from occurring. These include:

- **Tucson:** The Arizona Attorney General’s Office’s Stop Abuse and Financial Exploitation of the Elderly (SAFE) Program will hold a World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on Thursday, June 13, 2013 at the Abrams Public Health Center at 3950 S. Country Club Road in Tucson. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The event will be presented by Doug Clark, Assistant Attorney General.
- **Prescott:** The Prevention of Elder Abuse Coalition (PEAC) will hold their annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Event on Friday, June 14, 2013 at the Bob Stump VA Medical Center in Theater Building 15 located at 500 N. Hwy 89 in Prescott. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Featured speakers will include William Velez with APS, Mary Hawkins with the Better Business Bureau and Ted Evertsen with the Attorney General’s Office.

- **Chandler:** The Maricopa Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance (MEAPA) will present an opportunity to learn about elder abuse prevention on Friday, June 14, 2013 at Chandler Fashion Center located at 3111 W. Chandler Blvd in Chandler. The event runs from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The keynote speaker will be Pamela S.K. Glasner, producer of the documentary film “Last Will and Embezzlement” which features Hollywood icon Mickey Rooney. The documentary features disturbing, first-hand accounts from real-life elderly victims who were exploited financially as well as potential solutions to this ever-increasing worldwide problem.

Elder abuse can take on many forms and it can happen to anyone, anywhere. There are warning signs of elder abuse that can be learned in order to prevent it from happening. These include:

- **Physical abuse:** Unexplained injuries in places not expected, or in the shape of an object or explanations of injuries that aren’t consistent with the injury or its location are some warning signs of elder abuse.
- **Neglect:** Malnutrition, dehydration and bedsores may all be signs of neglect.
- **Financial exploitation:** Warning signs for exploitation can include cases where the alleged victim is being asked to sign financial documents or where they are being accompanied by a stranger to the bank who then encourages them to withdraw large amounts of cash. One of the best ways that people can help protect vulnerable seniors is to make sure to learn the signs of elder abuse and neglect.

“Protecting our seniors and other vulnerable adults is of utmost importance,” adds Director Carter. “And there are many ways you can help us to make sure our seniors get the help, respect and love they deserve. Call or visit your older relatives, friends and neighbors. Ask them how they are doing. Offer to give respite for a caregiver by filling in for a few hours or more. Ask an older acquaintance to share a talent by teaching either you or your children a new skill. Older Arizonans have so much to offer our communities, we just need to take a moment out of our days to ask.”

At DES, Adult Protective Services (APS) works in partnership with law enforcement, courts and community based service providers to assist in helping protect vulnerable adults and to help them live as independently as possible.

If you suspect that someone is a victim of adult abuse, you are asked to file an online report 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at the APS [site](#). You can also call the APS Central Intake Unit at 1-877 SOS-ADULT (1-877-815-8390) between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday or between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

For more information regarding the services APS provide, visit their [website](#).

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