



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

# News Release

Clarence H. Carter, Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Recognizing World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**

PHOENIX – The Department of Economic Security (DES) joins organizations around the world in recognizing June 15 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, a day set aside to voice opposition to abuse, neglect and suffering inflicted upon this population.

“Elder abuse in all forms is a community issue,” said Director Clarence H. Carter. “Participation and awareness is critical to the prevention of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. We appreciate the support and coordination from our community based service providers as we join together to help those in need.”

The DES Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) Adult Protective Services (APS) is responsible for investigating reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation for adults over the age of 18. Between July 2013 and April 2014, APS investigated more than 9,300 cases. This is a 3 percent increase over the same time last year.

“While Arizona has taken great strides over the last year to help our vulnerable population, we know there is much more work ahead,” said Carter. “We must join together and do what is necessary to prevent tragedies from occurring.”

In observance of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day several events are scheduled around Arizona to provide opportunities to learn more about the growing issue of elder abuse:

- **Phoenix:** [The Area Agency on Aging, Region One](#) will hold a World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Community Awareness and Information Fair on Friday, June 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the VA Hospital located at 650 E. Indian School in Phoenix.
- **Prescott:** The [Prevention of Elder Abuse Coalition](#) (PEAC) will hold a World Elder Abuse Awareness Day event in Prescott on Friday, June 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Prescott Christian Church located at 501 S. Senator Hwy in Prescott.
- **Yuma:** The Yuma County Elder Abuse Coalition is sponsoring the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Elder Abuse Awareness Day on Friday, June 13 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Yuma Senior Center located at 160 East 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Yuma. A special balloon release to honor victims of elder abuse will be held at approximately 9:00 a.m. For more information contact Alma Clark at (928) 581-0543.

APS can assist in facilitating services and supports that help protect vulnerable adults working in partnership with community based service providers, law enforcement and the courts. Any individual who makes a report to APS in good faith is immune from both civil and criminal liability.

Reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation can be made on behalf of any vulnerable adult over the age of 18. An online report can be filed 24 hours a day, seven days a week at <http://www.azdes.gov/reportadultabuse> or by calling 1-877 SOS-ADULT (1-877-767-2385) from 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday or between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

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