

OUR MISSION

to mobilize communities to prevent and properly respond to adult mistreatment, so people can live with dignity, security and independence as they age.

We do this by:

- Elder Services
- Public Education and Outreach
- Professional Training
- Serving as Alabama's Elder Justice Resource Center
- Adult Day Health Center
- Temporary Emergency Elder Shelter

WE ARE A TRUSTED RESOURCE

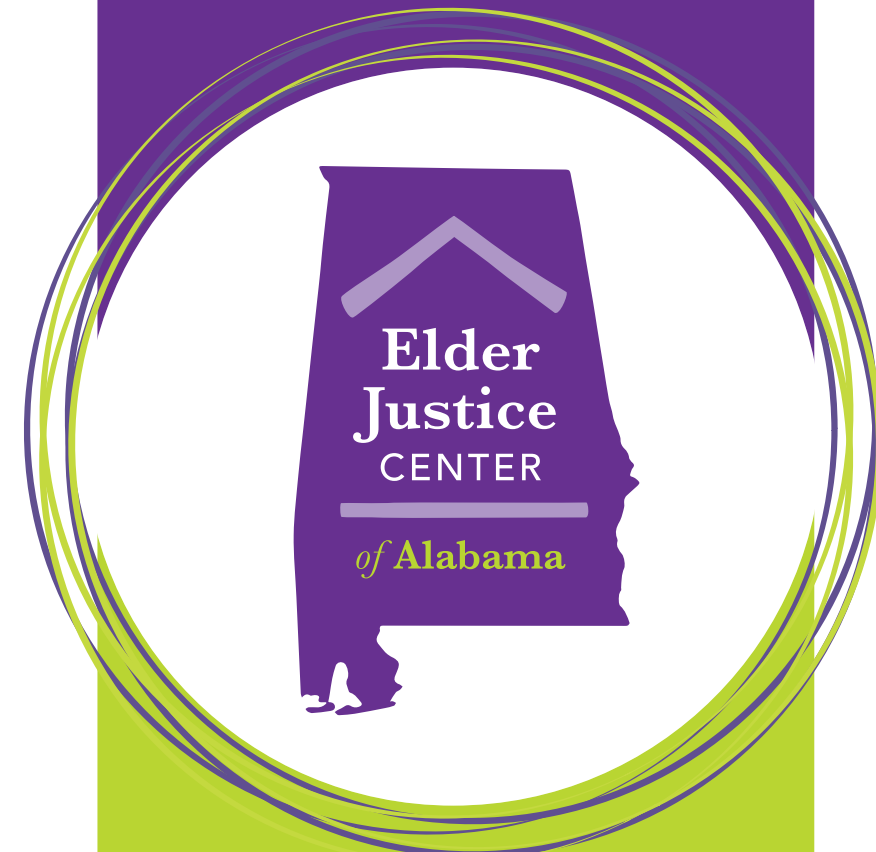
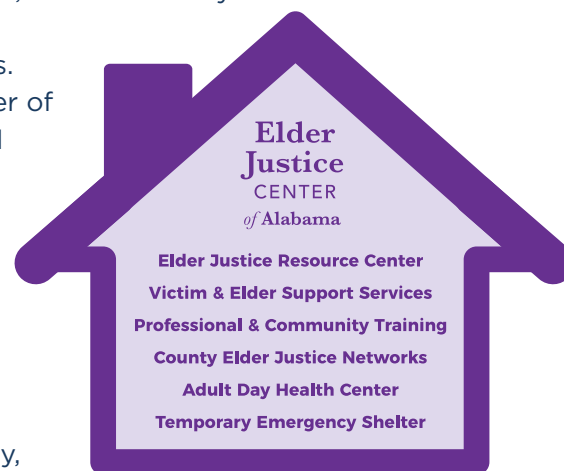
that seeks to improve long-term health, social, and functional status; enhance autonomy and independence; and mitigate the risks of recurrent abuse, so older individuals can remain safe and independent in their local communities as they age.

HELPING OLDER ADULTS AGE IN PLACE

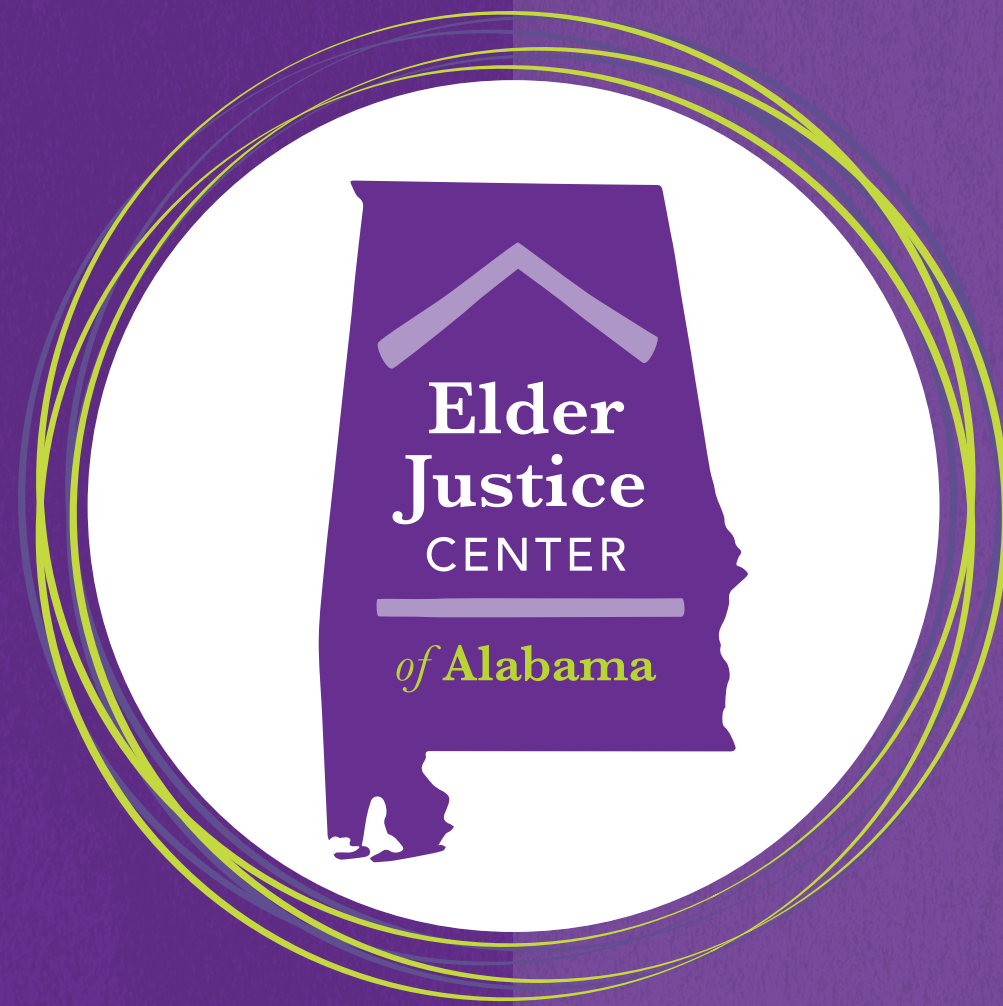
The Elder Justice Center of Alabama provides information and resources to older and vulnerable adults, family caregivers, professionals, and the general public. Our primary purpose is to offer help, support, and direct services to individuals who have been victimized by an abuse, neglect, or exploitation crime, those who may be at the greatest risk of adult mistreatment, and family caregivers.

The spirit of the Elder Justice Center of Alabama is to reach individuals and families early, provide the tools, information, and resources and prevent the abuse from happening in the first place.

We mobilize several community partners to prevent and properly respond to adult mistreatment so people can live with dignity, security, and independence as they age.



Scan to donate or go to
www.elderjusticeal.org
(205) 490-8448



JUSTICE FOR ALL

www.elderjusticeal.org

THE VALUE OF JUSTICE AS WE AGE

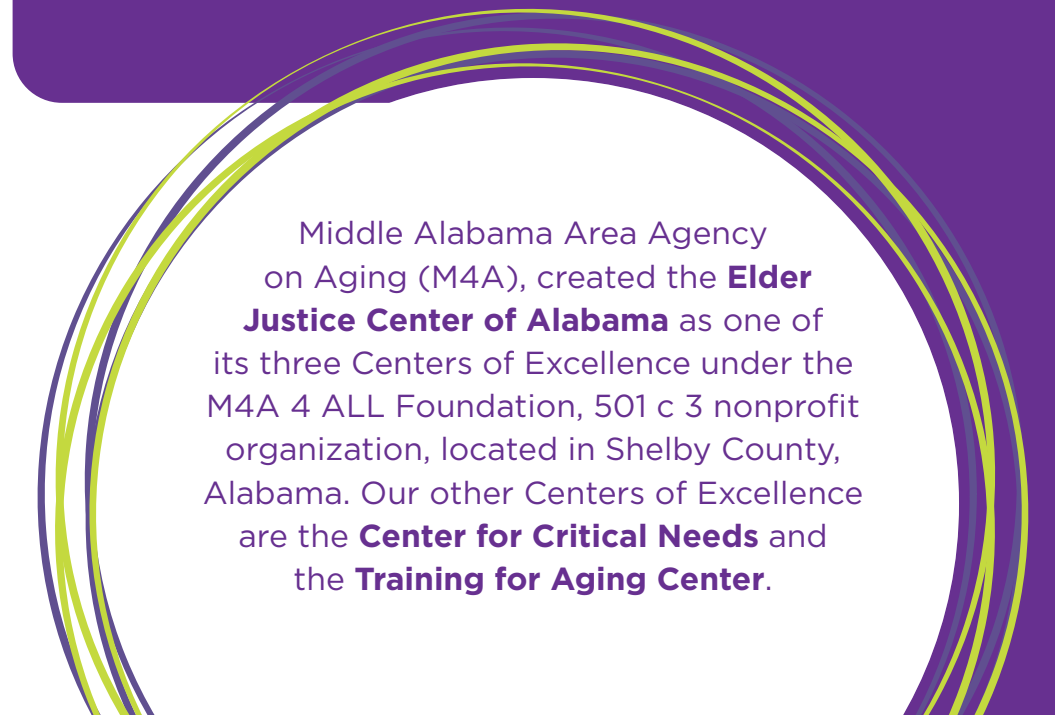
Our aging society is like a building. If the foundation and structure are strong, older adults can live their lives free from harm and worry. If the foundation is weak or the support beams unstable, then the people inside the building are not secure. Our social structure is not as strong as it should be, especially for older adults. We need social supports and reinforcements to ensure that we can all participate in society and live free of neglect and abuse as we age.

WHO WE ARE

The Elder Justice Center of Alabama serves all people who want to prevent adult mistreatment from occurring in their community. We place a special focus to provide direct support to victims of abuse, neglect, and exploitation, those who are at the greatest risk of mistreatment, and family caregivers.

WHAT WE DO

- 1 Provide information and resources
- 2 Educate on aging
- 3 Help prevent adult mistreatment



Middle Alabama Area Agency on Aging (M4A), created the **Elder Justice Center of Alabama** as one of its three Centers of Excellence under the M4A 4 ALL Foundation, 501 c 3 nonprofit organization, located in Shelby County, Alabama. Our other Centers of Excellence are the **Center for Critical Needs** and the **Training for Aging Center**.

ELDER ABUSE & MISTREATMENT

In our society, older people, for example, are often isolated and alone, which increases the likelihood of neglect and abuse. We can create a more just society for all people—regardless of our age—by building a stronger social structure. Elder abuse is a serious health pandemic that we all should care about and eliminate in Alabama.

Elder Abuse Affects All of Us.

Elder Abuse Defined

- Physical Abuse** The infliction of physical pain, injury, or the willful deprivation by a caregiver or other person of services necessary to maintain mental and physical health.
- Emotional Abuse** The willful or reckless infliction of emotional or mental anguish or the use of a physical or chemical restraint, medication, or isolation as punishment or as a substitute for treatment or care of any protected person.
- Exploitation** The expenditure, diminution, or use of the property, assets, or resources of a protected person without the express voluntary consent of that person or his or her legally authorized representative.
- Neglect and Self-Neglect** The failure of a caregiver to provide food, shelter, clothing, medical services, or health care for the person unable to care for himself or herself; or the failure of the person to provide these basic needs for himself or herself when the failure is a result of the person's mental or physical inability.
- Sexual Abuse** Any conduct that is a crime as defined in Sections 13A-6-60 to 13A-6-70, inclusive, which may include rape, sodomy, or sexual abuse by forcible compulsion or incapacity of the victim or indecent exposure.

THE WARNING SIGNS

Physical Abuse

Unexplained fractures, bruises, welts, cuts, sores, burns, torn or bloody undergarments

Emotional Abuse

Unexplained or uncharacteristic changes in behavior, such as withdrawal from normal activities, or unexplained changes in alertness

Social Isolation

Caregiver is verbally aggressive or demeaning, controlling, overly concerned about spending money, or uncaring

Exploitation

- Person with a caregiver, guardian/conservator whose personal needs are not being met
- Elder giving excessive financial reimbursement/gifts for needed care and companionship
- Caregiver has control of elder's finances but fails to provide for elder's needs

Neglect (and Self-Neglect)

- Lack of basic hygiene, adequate food, or clean and appropriate clothing, medical aids (glasses, walker, dentures, hearing aid, medications)
- Person with dementia left unsupervised
- Person confined to a bed left without care
- Home cluttered, filthy, in state of disrepair, or with fire and safety hazards
- Home without adequate facilities (stove, refrigerator, heating, cooling, working plumbing, and electricity)
- Untreated pressure "bed" sores (pressure ulcers)



TO REPORT ELDER ABUSE & MISTREATMENT

Alabama Department of Human Resources
Adult Protective Services

Adult Abuse Hotline:
1-800-458-7214
aps@dhr.alabama.gov

Reports can also be made to a
County Department of Human Resources
or local law enforcement.

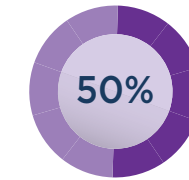
Reports can be made anonymously.

Alabama has 13 local Area Agencies on Aging which share a mission to help adults live and age well at home, and specialize in resources, services and information for older adults, persons with disabilities and caregivers.

Call your local Area Agency on Aging at (800) AGE-LINE or visit the state website at www.AlabamaAgeline.gov.
The Middle Alabama Area Agency on Aging (M4A) serves Blount, Chilton, Shelby, St. Clair, and Walker counties.



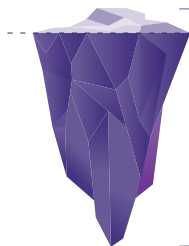
1 of every 10 people 60 and older who live at home suffers abuse, neglect, or exploitation



Half of people with dementia suffered mistreatment by their caregivers

3x

The mortality rate is **3 times higher** for a victim of abuse, neglect, exploitation



For every 1 case of elder abuse that comes to light, another **23 remain hidden**

JUSTICE FOR ALL
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