

“I was raped by  
my grandson.”

“Are you sure  
you’re not  
confused.”

## YOUR REACTION MAKES THE DIFFERENCE.

When someone tells you they’ve been raped, there’s a simple response. *Start by Believing.*

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Sexual assault in later life is a serious, underreported problem. Advanced age does not protect one from sexual assault, but rather increases risk in many ways.\* Resist ageist assumptions that older adults are not victims of sexual crimes. Knowing how to respond to someone who has disclosed abuse is critical—a negative response can worsen the trauma. *Start by Believing.*

When someone comes to you...what will your reaction be?

Start by  
Believing



[www.startbybelieving.org](http://www.startbybelieving.org)



[www.ncall.us](http://www.ncall.us)

\*Ramsey-Klawnsnik, Holly (2010). Sexual Violence in Later Life Factsheet, National Sexual Violence Resource Center.