

PROSECUTION

Responding to Elder Abuse: A Self-Assessment Tool
for **Prosecutors**



Responding to Elder Abuse: A Self-Assessment Tool for Prosecution



Created in November 2010 by Jane M. Sadusky
Revised June 2025

Introduction and Process

The National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL) designed this Prosecution self-assessment tool to help agencies evaluate strengths and areas of improvement in services for older victims of abuse. The goal of the self-assessment tool is to encourage your agency to candidly and thoughtfully assess your work and the processes you use. It will help identify existing practices and introduce new approaches which may strengthen the overall response of your agency when addressing elder abuse. The tool should facilitate and encourage discussion and raise questions about roles, response, coordination, and common purpose. Note: not every element included in the self-assessment tool will be in place in every community, nor is there an expectation that every element will be or can be implemented in every community.

How is elder abuse defined?

Elder abuse, according to the Elder Justice Roadmap, “includes physical, sexual or psychological abuse, as well as neglect, abandonment, and financial exploitation of an older person by another person or entity, that occurs in any setting (e.g., home, community, or facility), either in a relationship where there is an expectation of trust and/or when an older person is targeted based on age or disability.”

This is not a legal definition. Statutorily, there is wide variety in how elder abuse is defined from state to state and in criminal, protective, and civil law within a state. While elders can be victimized by strangers, most abuse experienced by older adults is perpetrated by non-strangers: i.e., intimate partners, adult children, other family members, fiduciaries, and caregivers. Abuse occurs in facilities as well as community settings.

How is abuse in later life defined?

Abuse in later life is defined by the Violence Against Women Act as neglect, abandonment, economic abuse, or willful harm of an adult aged 50 or older by an individual in an ongoing relationship of trust with the victim; or domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking of an adult aged 50 or older by any individual; and does not include self-neglect.

This document contains the following sections:

- Section 1: Self-Assessment Tool
 - The self-assessment addresses seven dimensions to consider in evaluating your response to elder abuse and abuse in later life.
- Section 2: Action Plan for Change
 - Based on the results of the self-assessment, the Action Plan guides the user through a process to celebrate strengths and identify future actions, projects, and steps; identifies who will undertake what actions; and provides a timeline to track progress. Inter-agency action plans are an effective way to strengthen current community response to elder abuse and abuse in later life.
- Appendix: Abuse in Later Life Power and Control Wheel
 - In 2006, NCALL adapted the Power and Control Wheel, developed by Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs in Duluth, MN to create a graphic that represents abuse in later life. Various sections of this tool will refer back to the tactics on the wheel.

Who should be involved in completing the self-assessment?

The self-assessment process works best when completed using a team that involves your agency's leaders and staff, from elected officials, attorneys, policy makers, victim services and investigation units. The tools are not intended to be completed by one or two individuals working in isolation. Effectively using this tool involves reflection and discussion that requires candid and thoughtful conversation among those with different experiences within the agency.

How can we use this tool in our Coordinated Community Response?

Prosecutors play a critical role in this inter-agency response; educating collaborative partners on what is needed to make a case chargeable, what considerations are made by the charging attorney in reaching a charging decision and what they might need from each partner to assist in a “successful” prosecution. They can explain defenses that come up and how law enforcement and other investigative partners can assist in combating those, explain ethical obligations prosecutors have in terms of disclosing information they may receive from the CCR and work with partners to ensure CCR information—sharing does not compromise victim safety. Where applicable, prosecutors can educate CCR partners on mandatory reporting laws and any criminal statutes that may apply for failure to report suspected abuse.

This is not a one-way stream of information. Prosecutors can benefit from working with other agencies by building relationships across organizations, developing a shared understanding of service gaps and systemic issues, and learning what services various agencies provide. Prosecutors can learn how to be more effective in victim engagement from practitioners who work with older adults every day. Additionally, they can learn about other remedies that may better serve an individual situation, available through community organizations. Working through an Action Plan with community partners presents a valuable opportunity to assess what may be

working well, while investigating a response that could be more effective. Further, it increases fidelity and improved safety options for older survivors, sending a message of intolerance to any form of elder abuse.

Questions and feedback

If you have questions or want to provide NCALL staff with feedback about your experience using the tools, please email ncall@ncall.us.

This project was supported by Grant No. 15JOVW-23-GK-05142-MUMU awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

Section 1: Assessment Grid

Date:	Assessment grid completed by:
--------------	--------------------------------------

Instructions: There are seven dimensions included in the assessment. For each dimension, review each element and check whether or how often it applies, using the scale. In the notes section, record any comments that pertain to that dimension, such as specific accomplishments, barriers, or ideas for change. Note: This tool draws in part on *Prosecuting Elder Abuse Cases*, a publication developed by the National Center for State Courts.

Dimension 1: Charging & Disposition		This applies...			
		Always/Yes	Sometimes	Never/No	Need more info
1A	Framework				
1A-1	Our goals in each elder abuse case are to seek justice by: 1. Enhancing victim safety 2. Stopping the abuse 3. Holding the offender accountable 4. Restoring what has been taken from the victim				
1A-2	If a person's situation does not meet criteria for prosecution, we provide information and/or referral to an appropriate agency when relevant.				
1A-3	Our prosecutors are alert to multiple types of abuse; if they find grounds for charging one crime they look for other possible charges.				

Dimension 1: Charging & Disposition		This applies...			
		Always/Yes	Sometimes	Never/No	Need more info
1A-4	We consider implications for ongoing victim safety when making charging decisions and in plea negotiations and sentencing recommendations.				
1A-5	We take care to ask each victim about their goals for the prosecution and to take those goals into account in our charging decisions, plea negotiations and sentencing recommendations.				
1A-6	We treat elder abuse victims who are reluctant to have cases prosecuted, testify or withdraw earlier statements with compassion and respect.				
1A-7	We have a policy which strongly discourages the seeking of arrest warrants for a victim of elder abuse who does not appear in response to a subpoena.				
1A-8	Prosecutors work closely with law enforcement to ensure the investigation is thorough and build a case that is less reliant on victim participation.				
1A-9	We ensure advocacy support for elder abuse victims throughout all steps of case processing.				
1A-10	We are aware of community-based programs and have policies and standards for referring cases to community-based restorative justice services.				
1A-11	When referring cases to community-based programs, we seek victim agreement to the referral.				
1A-12	Elder abuse cases are handled by the same prosecutor throughout the case (vertical prosecution).				

Dimension 1: Charging & Disposition		This applies...			
		Always/Yes	Sometimes	Never/No	Need more info
1B	<i>Assessing capacity</i>				
1B-1	Our prosecutors are prepared to recognize, evaluate and respond to a victim's functional limitations and the impact of those limitations on prosecuting the case. ¹				
1B-2	We consult with capacity specialists at the outset of a case as needed if a person's capacity is in question or it is difficult to determine a person's functional limitations and that status is critical to charging the case.				
1B-3	When capacity is an issue in a case, we avoid relying on stand-alone, one-time assessments or use of a single screening tool in evaluating mental and functional capacity.				
1C	<i>Interviewing</i>				
1C-1	Our prosecutors use the Abuse in Later Life Power and Control Wheel and its representation of the power and control dynamics of elder abuse to aid their interviews and trial preparation. ²				
1C-2	We use pretrial interviews to: • assess and address victim safety concerns; • continually engage with and seek input from victims throughout the prosecution; and • prepare victims for court hearings.				
1C-3	We record interpreted interviews with older individuals who are victims and witnesses, if necessary.				

¹ Functional limitations (cognitive and physical) can affect the accuracy and credibility of the victim's account; communication between the prosecutor and the victim; mobility and physical access to the prosecutor's office and courtroom; and victim stamina over the course of case processing.

² For example: in interviews with victims about potential forms of abuse; as a cue to ways in which an abuser may attempt to manipulate interveners; to aid in explaining elder abuse to a jury or judge. The Wheel is provided in the Appendix.

Dimension 1: Charging & Disposition		This applies...			
		Always/Yes	Sometimes	Never/No	Need more info
1C-4	We allow a community-based advocate or other support person to be present during interviews if requested by the victim and consistent with state law. ³				
1C-5	We take depositions (or obtain expedited hearings with defense participation) from victims who may be unavailable for trial due to illness or live with dementia or other cognitive conditions.				
1D	<i>Recognizing perpetrator justifications</i>				
1D-1	We prepare cases early on to respond and counter a defendant's justifications in elder <u>physical abuse</u> cases, such as: • caregiver stress; • accident; • medication side effect; and • victim aggressor (self-defense).				
1D-2	We prepare cases early on to respond and counter a defendant's justifications in elder <u>sexual abuse</u> cases, such as: • victim consented; and • result of normal caregiver activities.				

³ The self-assessment tool distinguishes between community-based advocates and system-based advocates. Community-based advocates are affiliated with non-governmental organizations, such as a domestic violence or sexual assault agency. System-based advocates are affiliated with a governmental organization such as a prosecutor's office or law enforcement agency. System-based advocates provide important support to victims, but usually also have a role in supporting the goal of prosecution or investigation. Confidentiality is one area where the distinction is often the sharpest.

Dimension 1: Charging & Disposition		This applies...			
		Always/Yes	Sometimes	Never/No	Need more info
1D-3	We prepare cases early on to respond and counter a defendant's justifications in elder <u>financial abuse and exploitation</u> cases, such as: • gift or request from victim; • payment for services; and • formal authority to act.				
1D-4	We prepare cases early on to respond and counter a defendant's justifications in elder <u>neglect</u> cases, such as: • Caregiver stress; • symptoms of disease or illness; • victim refused care; and • not responsible for victim's care.				
1D-5	We prepare cases early on to respond and counter a defendant's justifications in elder <u>stalking</u> cases, such as • deny the behavior; and • victim overreacted.				
1E	<i>Trial</i>				
1E-1	Before any trial or proceeding where a victim must be present, agency staff visit the courtroom with the victim (with their consent) to review the physical setting and layout, verify any needed accommodations, and explain the process and what will happen at each stage.				
1E-2	We use <i>voir dire</i> questions that account for personal beliefs in elder abuse cases, including attention to prospective jurors' assumptions and misconceptions about family violence and elder abuse, older adults (ageism), witness credibility, and victim reluctance to participate in				

Dimension 1: Charging & Disposition		This applies...			
		Always/Yes	Sometimes	Never/No	Need more info
	prosecution. If voir dire is conducted by the court, we provide questions to the court in these areas for the court to ask.				
1E-3	In bench trials, we incorporate the concepts listed in the previous item to provide information that supports an informed judgement by the court when evaluating the evidence and witness credibility.				
1E-4	The juror selection process addresses jurors who are caregivers and may have assumptions about caregiver stress.				
1F	<i>Conditions of release and sentencing</i>				
1F-1	We consult with the victim and their community-based advocate and/or system advocate prior to requesting protective orders and conditions of release from custody.				
1F-2	Sentencing recommendations consider collateral consequences of a conviction.				
1F-3	Sentencing recommendations for probation include consideration of no-contact conditions, protection orders, restitution, treatment, and community service.				
1F-4	When allowed by law, we request regular review hearings of probation sentences in elder abuse cases.				
1F-5	When it fits the nature of the crime, we request restitution and a due date for payment of restitution.				
1F-6	We request hearings to address a defendant's non-payment of restitution.				
1F-7	With victim safety in mind, we evaluate the appropriateness of alternatives to prosecution such as pretrial diversion, treatment court proceedings, and restorative justice programs and alternative dispute resolutions.				

Dimension 1: Charging & Disposition		This applies...			
		Always/Yes	Sometimes	Never/No	Need more info
1G	<i>Abuse and neglect in facility settings</i>				
1G-1	We are prepared to request an investigation when we receive reports of <u>individuals</u> victimizing older adults in facility settings.				
1G-2	We are prepared to request an investigation when we receive reports of <u>systemic</u> elder abuse in facility settings (elder abuse stemming from management and operation of the facility).				
1G-3	Our attorneys, investigators and victim services staff are capable of handling cases arising in facility settings. Otherwise, we consult on such cases with the State Attorney General's Office.				
1H	<i>Expert witness and case consultation</i>				
1H-1	We are linked with and prepared to use expert witnesses in the following ways: • Conducting injury evaluations (distinguishing injuries due to neglect or abuse from injuries that are accidental or medical related) • Making charging decisions and testifying at trial • Evaluating financial records and conducting forensic examinations of financial documents • Addressing issues of capacity				
1H-2	We have a process in place to consult with other government agencies and community organizations when investigating forms of elder abuse that are new or unfamiliar to our prosecutors.				
1H-3	We consult with financial institutions to establish procedures to stop a perpetrator's control and use of a victim's assets.				
1I	<i>Technology and Case Tracking</i>				
1I-1	We use case tracking technology to identify and mark all cases of elder abuse				

Dimension 1: Charging & Disposition		This applies...			
		Always/Yes	Sometimes	Never/No	Need more info
1I-2	We use case tracking technology to identify cases that are both elder abuse and domestic violence and/or elder abuse and sexual assault.				
1I-3	We use case tracking technology to notify victims of elder abuse of court dates, changes in court dates, a defendant's custodial status and release from custody, and court protective orders issued in elder abuse cases.				
1I-4	We use case tracking technology to promptly notify victim specialists when an elder abuse case is received by the agency.				

Dimension 1: Charging & Disposition

Notes: Accomplishments?

Notes: Barriers?

Notes: Ideas for Change?

Dimension 2: Safety Planning		This applies...			
		Always/Yes	Sometimes	Never/No	Need more info
2A	<i>Framework</i>				
2A-1	We have a process to promptly refer all reports of elder abuse to a victim-witness specialist for immediate victim contact and discussion of safety planning and case concerns.				
2A-2	A victim/witness specialist coordinates safety planning specific to case charging and disposition.				
2A-3	We rely on <u>multiple</u> sources of information and tools in a team or interdisciplinary setting when making decisions about danger and safety. ⁴				
2A-4	Consistent with state and federal law, victim safety is a priority over any inquiry into or reporting of immigration status.				
2B	<i>Process and components</i>				
2B-1	When talking with victims we use common language and avoid professional or technical jargon and terms.				
2B-2	We are aware of the nature and impact of “victim trauma response.” ⁵				
2B-3	We use approaches specific to the type of elder abuse involved in assessing the level and immediacy of danger and related safety needs.				
2B-4	Our prosecutors seek emergency protection orders (if authorized by law) and/or make referrals to advocacy services that can assist with protection orders in appropriate cases.				
2B-5	We confirm that firearms have been removed from perpetrators when authorized by law.				

⁴ For example: consulting law enforcement and/or APS investigation reports, available medical records, and any functional assessments of daily living activities and decision-making; utilizing a multi-disciplinary team that includes prosecutors, investigators, aging and disability specialists, and domestic violence and sexual assault advocacy services.

⁵ Victim trauma response is the wide range of physical, emotional, and behavioral reactions to violence, assault, or other trauma.

2B-6	We respond to and file charges for violations of protection orders and when appropriate, consider stalking charges when multiple violations are alleged in elder abuse cases.				
2B-7	Sentencing recommendations emphasize victim safety and autonomy.				
2C	<i>Community connections</i>				
2C-1	We make meaningful referrals to community services, i.e., beyond brochures and business cards. We have links to specific agencies and practitioners, facilitate calls from victims to referral sources, and call on a victim's behalf, if requested by the victim or their authorized representative.				
2C-2	We have strong links with a variety of helping agencies and resources.				
2C-3	When applicable, we work closely with APS and/or ombudsman when considering safety planning options for older victims.				

Dimension 2: Safety Planning

Notes: Accomplishments?

Notes: Barriers?

Notes: Ideas for Change?

Note: This dimension addresses access in two forms: (1) disability-related access and (2) generational accessibility.

Dimension 3: Access		This applies...			
		Always/Yes	Sometimes	Never/No	Need more info
3A	<i>Framework</i>				
3A-1	We invite older people with disabilities from various backgrounds to conduct an accessibility assessment, including a tour of facilities and review of interview and intervention practices.				
3A-2	We invite representatives from communities that reflect the demographics of our community to review our interview and intervention practices.				
3A-3	We assign designated staff to know and maintain ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards for accessibility.				
3A-4	Our agency staff reflects the demographics of our service area.				
3A-5	We conduct an agency-wide assessment of our disability accessibility policies and practices on a regular basis (i.e., every one to five years). ⁶				
3B	<i>Process and components</i>				
3B-1	We have a protocol to guide prosecutors and victim/witness specialists in responding to a victim's specific disability accommodation needs.				
3B-2	We collaborate with specialists working with people with disabilities, including blind/low vision, Deaf/hard of hearing, physical disabilities, diminished cognition, psychiatric, and others when the situation requires additional skills and knowledge.				
3B-3	We request alternative proceedings (e.g., conditional exams or criminal depositions) when victims are or may be unable to testify in court due to declining cognition or physical impairment.				

⁶ The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) provides materials about meeting ADA requirements and other issues related to disability access: [Accessibility | National Center for State Courts](#)

Dimension 3: Access		This applies...			
		Always/Yes	Sometimes	Never/No	Need more info
3B-4	Our prosecutors and victim/witness staff consider conducting meetings with victims at a location other than the prosecutor's office when appropriate and safe to do so.				
3B-5	We schedule appointments and proceedings to minimize waiting time for older victims and witnesses.				
3B-6	We provide or make arrangements to meet an older victim's or witness' need for meals, restrooms, medication, and other medical needs during court proceedings.				
3B-7	Prior to any trial date we make arrangements for interpreters, hearing devices, or any other accommodation in the courtroom.				
3B-8	We provide appropriate interpreter services or communication assistance to those involved in a case of reported abuse who have sensory or speaking impairments or limited English proficiency. ⁷				
3B-9	We have the training, technology, equipment, or links with community agencies necessary to provide access to persons with the following kinds of needs: • mobility • vision • hearing • speech • cognition				
3B-10	In our interviews and other interactions, we are attentive to and respectful of customs and courtesies of victims from various backgrounds.				

⁷ Appropriate assistance includes such measures as using professional interpreters or APS staff fluent in the person's language; safeguarding confidentiality when using non-APS assistance; ensuring that the assistant has no stake or conflict of interest in the case; and, avoiding family members unless requested by the person (and without involvement in the case); providing aids and materials at no cost.

Dimension 3: Access		This applies...			
		Always/Yes	Sometimes	Never/No	Need more info
3B-11	Our response accounts for ways in which aspects of an older adult’s perspective and experience might influence their decision-making and response, such as: • Mistrusting information provided by law enforcement, health care, or social services • Seeing information provided by law enforcement, health care, or social services as contrary to religious beliefs • Deferring to other relatives or adult children when family decision-making is the norm • Misunderstanding because of limited English proficiency⁸				

⁸ These recommendations reflect the work of Dr. Georgia J. Anetzberger in adult protective services investigation and assessment training prepared for the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

Dimension 3: Access

Notes: Accomplishments?

Notes: Barriers?

Notes: Ideas for Change?

Dimension 4: Victim/Witness Services		This applies...			
		Always/Yes	Sometimes	Never/No	Need more info
4A	Framework				
4A-1	The role of the victim/witness specialist/system advocate is clearly defined and accounts for laws governing confidentiality and privileged communication.				
4A-2	We inform victims upfront about limitations on victim/witness confidentiality and privileged communication.				
4A-3	We avoid putting victim/witness specialists in a position of being the only witness to statements made in pretrial or other interviews. Evidentiary interviews are conducted by law enforcement with an advocate (either system or community-based) present.				
4A-4	Our prosecutors are knowledgeable of their disclosure obligations regarding conversations with victims and consider an <i>on-camera</i> review when disclosure may compromise victim safety.				
4B	Services				
4B-1	We provide each victim of elder abuse or their substitute decision-maker with information about crime victim rights and how to exercise them.				
4B-2	We ensure a victim or substitute decision-maker knows how to receive notification about an offender's release from custody.				
4B-3	We inform the victim or substitute decision-maker about any conditions of pretrial release on the offender.				
4B-4	We provide the victim or substitute decision-maker with a notice and explanation of any decision not to prosecute in an elder abuse case.				
4B-5	We provide the victim or substitute decision-maker with a notice and explanation when charges are dismissed in an elder abuse case.				
4B-6	We attend court proceedings with victims of elder abuse.				

4B-7	We make arrangements for a victim to submit a victim impact statement as part of any presentence investigation or sentencing.				
4B-8	We assist victims in seeking restitution as a condition of a plea offer or in filing crime victim compensation claims.				
4B-9	Explanation of and communication about charging, disposition, and crime victim rights are made using everyday language and avoiding professional jargon and “legalese.” These are available in large print and in languages spoken in our community.				
4B-10	We notify any designated community-based advocate about the progress of the case and any upcoming appearances.				
4B-11	We use resources within the older adult’s identified community to the fullest extent possible.				
4B-12	We provide victims with elder-specific referral and resource material.				
4B-13	We have links to housing options and alternatives for older adults, both emergency and long-term.				
4C	<i>Referrals</i>				
4C-1	Our agency routinely makes referrals to adult protective services, aging services programs, and domestic abuse and sexual assault agencies, with victim consent.				
4C-2	Our agency routinely makes referrals, with victim consent, to agencies organized in and working with victims from various backgrounds.				
4C-3	We routinely make referrals to other governmental agencies and community-based organizations, with victim consent, that can support the person’s overall long-term safety and well-being, such as: referrals to legal advocacy, emergency and other housing assistance, and victim support groups.				

Dimension 4: Victim/Witness Services

Notes: Accomplishments?

Notes: Barriers?

Notes: Ideas for Change?

Dimension 5: Policy & Procedure		This applies...			
		Always/Yes	Sometimes	Never/No	Need more info
5A	Framework				
5A-1	Our policies and procedures define elder abuse consistent with statutory law.				
5A-2	Our policies and procedures distinguish intimate partner violence in later life from other forms of elder abuse.				
5A-3	We regularly review (i.e., every one to five years) agency policies, procedures, and practices to determine their impact on victims of elder abuse.				
5B	Content				
	We have policies and procedures in place to address:				
5B-1	Prosecuting an offender with a disability, frailty, or specialized medical need				
5B-2	Reviewing dominant aggressor considerations in elder abuse charging decisions				
5B-3	Evaluating cases when the suspect is the victim's caregiver				
5B-4	Stopping a perpetrator's control and use of a victim's assets				
5B-5	Responding to reported elder abuse in care facilities				
5B-6	Working with adult protective services				
5B-7	Working with domestic violence victim advocacy services and making referrals when a case involves domestic abuse in later life				
5B-8	Working with sexual assault victim advocacy services and making referrals when a case involves sexual assault in later life				
5B-9	Determining when a prosecution-based victim/witness specialist will be present during interviews and other interactions between prosecutors and a victim of elder abuse				

Dimension 5: Policy & Procedure		This applies...			
		Always/Yes	Sometimes	Never/No	Need more info
5B-10	Determining when a community-based victim advocate can be present during interviews and other interactions between prosecutors and a victim of elder abuse				
5B-11	Determining when a law enforcement official, including a prosecution investigator, will be present during interviews and other interactions between prosecutors and a victim of elder abuse.				

Dimension 5: Policy & Procedure

Notes: Accomplishments?

Notes: Barriers?

Notes: Ideas for change?

Dimension 6: Training		This applies...			
		Always/Yes	Sometimes	Never/No	Need more info
6A	Framework				
6A-1	Agency training on elder abuse includes prosecutors, victim/witness specialists, prosecution investigators, and agency volunteers.				
6A-2	We have established and routinely update a library of resource materials and professional literature on elder abuse prosecution and law enforcement response.				
6A-3	All training related to elder abuse addresses attitudes and myths about aging and the resulting barriers to effective response.				
6A-4	We provide training and opportunities to practice how to recognize types of abuse and establish the degree of danger involved.				
6B	Content				
	Training for prosecutors, prosecution investigators, and victim/witness specialists (as relevant) addresses:				
6B-1	Recognizing the multiple ways that perpetrators of elder abuse try to manipulate and deceive interveners				
6B-2	Recognizing common justifications that abusers present, including caregiver stress				
6B-3	Recognizing and understanding the complex circumstances that elder abuse victims face in making decisions about whether to leave an abuser, continue to live with an abuser, or return to live with an abuser.				
6B-4	Interview approaches and techniques for elder abuse cases				
6B-5	How to correctly assess and document a person's functional capacity to understand risk, make decisions, and give informed consent to investigation and services				
6B-6	Prosecuting forms of sexual abuse in later life				

Dimension 6: Training		This applies...			
		Always/Yes	Sometimes	Never/No	Need more info
6B-7	Prosecuting forms of domestic violence in later life				
6B-8	Evaluating dominant aggressor considerations in elder abuse cases				
6B-9	Prosecuting financial exploitation as a form of elder abuse				
6B-10	Prosecuting individual and systemic abuse in care facility settings				
6B-11	Use and limitations of expert witnesses in elder abuse cases				
6B-12	Jury selection, whether conducted by the prosecutor or the court, including strategies for recognizing and addressing jurors' attitude related to aging and elder abuse				
6B-13	Case strategy and presenting evidence in elder abuse prosecution				
6B-14	How to prosecute cases successfully without victim testimony and respond to post- <i>Crawford</i> issues ⁹				
6B-15	How to respond to defense tactics to reduce the credibility of an older individual as a victim or witness				
6B-16	Maximizing safety for victims of elder abuse from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences.				
6B-17	We provide prosecutors, investigators and victim witness specialists with an annual update and review of laws and case opinions that relate to the investigation, arrest, and prosecution of elder abuse cases and meeting the needs of victims.				

⁹ Articles and links addressing the impact of *Crawford* in domestic violence cases are available from the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence: http://www.ncdsv.org/publications_crawfordvwashington.html

Dimension 6: Training		This applies...			
		Always/Yes	Sometimes	Never/No	Need more info
6B-18	Prosecutors and system advocates are required to receive specialized training on the dynamics of elder abuse, barriers to safety, and other specialized elder abuse content prior to working on an elder abuse case.				
6C	<i>Methods</i>				
6C-1	An interdisciplinary team representing prosecution, law enforcement, domestic violence and sexual assault services, and adult protective services or aging network specialists delivers training on elder abuse response and investigation to prosecutors, investigators, and victim-witness specialists.				
C-2	We routinely use case studies and scenarios in formal and informal training to examine how existing agency policies and procedures guide our response to elder abuse.				
6C-3	We utilize a variety of approaches in providing and supporting training on the prosecution response to elder abuse, such as mock trials, informal “brown bag lunch” discussions, online and other distance learning, and professional conferences and seminars.				
6D	<i>Community connections</i>				
6D-1	We participate in and provide cross-training with law enforcement, victim services, the aging services network, adult protective services, and domestic abuse and sexual assault services agencies.				

Dimension 6: Training

Notes: Accomplishments?

Notes: Barriers?

Notes: Ideas for change?

Dimension 7: Community Collaboration		This applies...			
		Always/Yes	Sometimes	Never/No	Need more info
7A	Framework				
7A-1	We are active participants in multidisciplinary teams, such as an MDT, interdisciplinary team (I-Team), or case consulting team operating in the community, focusing on elder abuse cases.				
7A-2	We use a variety of methods to build links with and expand our understanding of who lives in our community and who should be involved in the wider response to elder abuse.				
7B	Relationships				
7B-1	Our relationships with law enforcement, adult protective services, domestic abuse and sexual assault service agencies, the aging services network, and senior organizations are characterized by: • Strong linkages • Frequent communication • Understanding of roles and legal requirements related to communicating information about specific cases or persons. • Cross-training and other joint events or projects				
7C	Systems change				
7C-1	We are linked with and participate in state efforts focused on elder abuse and abuse in later life, including the work of the prosecutors' association, law enforcement associations, state domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions, and state coalitions on aging.				
7C-2	We are linked with and participate in national efforts focused on elder abuse and abuse in later life, such as the work of U.S. Department of Justice Elder Justice Initiative, NCALL (National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life), and NCEA (National Center on Elder Abuse).				
7C-3	We participate in any fatality review team for elder abuse cases, including cases involving older adults and domestic violence.				

Dimension 7: Community Collaboration

Notes: Accomplishments?

Notes: Barriers?

Notes: Ideas for change?

Section 2: Action Plan for Change

Now that you have completed the self-assessment tool, you have the foundation for creating a plan for change for any concerns you may have identified during this process. Following is a template to aid in designing this plan for change. Note this template includes space for indicating those concerns about your current response to elder abuse but also space for highlighting your strengths and what is going well.

Step 1: Recognize your strengths and accomplishments while identifying what needs to change in your response to abuse in later life.

- Review each area of the assessment grid and note where you checked “sometimes” and “never.”
- Identify what is missing in your response and where you need more information.
- Identify strengths and accomplishments in the current response to abuse in later life.

Step 2: Set priorities and next steps for the changes you would like to make. Keep in mind:

- New or revised policies and/or procedures
- Better connections and communication
- New or expanded training
- Stronger collaborations

Step 3: Assign tasks and set timelines.

Step 4: Track your progress by reviewing this Action Plan at selected intervals, such as every six months.

Action Plan: Strengthening Our Response to Abuse in Later Life

Dimension	Strengths and Accomplishments	Concerns	Priorities and next steps:	Assigned to:	Due by:	Progress/Updates
1) Charging & Disposition						
2) Safety Planning						
3) Access						
4) Victim/Witness Services						

Action Plan: Strengthening Our Response to Abuse in Later Life

Dimension	Strengths and Accomplishments	Concerns	Priorities and next steps:	Assigned to:	Due by:	Progress/Updates
5) Policy & Procedure						
6) Training						
7) Community Collaboration						

Appendix: Abuse in Later Life Wheel

In 2006, NCALL adapted the Power and Control Wheel, developed by the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, Duluth, MN to create this wheel.

