



Checklist for Identifying Signs of Nursing Home Neglect and Abuse

1 Physical Indicators:

- Unexplained bruises, cuts, burns, or fractures
- Bedsores or pressure ulcers
- Frequent infections or illnesses
- Sudden weight loss or dehydration
- Poor personal hygiene or unclean appearance

2 Behavioral Changes:

- Sudden mood swings or signs of depression and anxiety
- Withdrawal from social activities or interactions
- Fearfulness or signs of distress around certain staff members
- Unusual behavior such as rocking or mumbling

3 Environmental Observations:

- Unsanitary living conditions (dirty bedding, floors, or bathrooms)
- Strong odors indicating a lack of cleaning
- Inadequate staffing or staff appearing overwhelmed
- Residents left unattended for long periods

4 Medical and Care-Related Concerns:

- Missed medications or incorrect dosages
- Untreated or poorly managed medical conditions
- Frequent hospital visits or emergency room trips
- Lack of medical records or inconsistencies in care documentation



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5 Financial Red Flags:

- Unexplained withdrawals from bank accounts
- Missing personal belongings
- Changes in wills, power of attorney, or other financial documents without consent

6 Communication Barriers:

- Staff unwilling to answer questions or provide clear information
- Restricted access to the resident, including sudden rule changes about visits
- Lack of response or delayed response to concerns raised

7 Understaffing

- Call lights not answered within 15 minutes
- Call lights not answered at all.
- No return calls for updates on the residents.
- Inability to locate staff on floor.
- Rushed staff
- High turnover rates (different staff every time you visit)
- No updates by staff of significant changes in conditions (falls, injuries, changes in medications, etc.)
- Admissions by staff that they are understaffed or can't get to everyone