

## Points of Interest

- ◆ *Today, 1 out of every 8 Americans is 65 years old or older.*
- ◆ *The fastest growing segment of the population are people 85 years or older, a trend that creates special issues for law enforcement personnel.*
- ◆ *Maine is the 3rd oldest State in the nation.*
- ◆ *Over 5 million seniors are abused each year in the U.S.; An estimated 12,000 are abused each year in Maine.*
- ◆ *Many seniors live alone, making them a more attractive target for criminals.*
- ◆ *Title 22 M.R.S.A. §3477 states that law enforcement officers are among those professionals required to report cases of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation to the Department of Human Services, yet law enforcement referrals made up only 3% of all referrals made to DHS in 2002.*



Learn more about the Elder Service Officer program by visiting the Office of the Attorney General's web site at [www.maine.gov/ag](http://www.maine.gov/ag). Click on elder issues, then financial exploitation.

6 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333  
Phone: 207-626-8520  
Fax: 207-287-3120  
Email: [michael.l.webber@maine.gov](mailto:michael.l.webber@maine.gov)



Maine Office of the  
Attorney General

## 2005 Elder Service Officer Certification Program



### SAVE THE DATE

January 25-27, 2005 at the  
Maine Criminal Justice  
Academy. Register now,  
seats are limited!

## Protecting Maine's Seniors



*2003 Elder Service Officer of the Year, Paul Gaspar, Cape Elizabeth Police Department and Maine Attorney General G. Steven Rowe.*

Since 1999, over 100 officers from local, county, and State law enforcement agencies have joined the Office of the Attorney General in investigating cases of abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation which target Maine's older residents. Considering the fact that Maine is the third oldest State in the nation, and that over 12,000 Maine seniors are estimated to have been abused each year, preparing officers to respond to these crimes is a priority; this is the mission of the Office of the Attorney General's Elder Service Officer (ESO) Program. The ESO program is voluntary. Attorney General Steven Rowe has asked each agency head to designate an officer or officers who would be amenable to receiving training designed to enhance their ability to respond more effectively and efficiently to the special needs of Maine's older residents. ESOs are granted e-mail access to a list-serve designed to share timely bulletins on scams, training, and other information of interest. Semi-Annual conferences are being planned, and with the release of this training program, certification as an ESO is now being offered.

Interested in becoming or nominating an Elder Service Officer? Please contact Detective Michael Webber at 207-626-8520 or michael.l.webber@maine.gov.

### Training Agenda

The ESO certification program will include training which focuses on the response to, and the investigation of: abuse, neglect and financial exploitation which targets seniors. 24 hours of MCJA in service credits will be awarded to those who complete the course. Though the following course outline is subject to change, we expect to offer the following topics:

- **The Aging Process:** Amy Cotton, RN
- **Understanding the Scope and Nature of Elder Abuse:** Protective Program Administrators Ricker Hamilton and Rick Mooers, Bureau of Elder and Adult Services
- **Elder Financial Exploitation:** Detective Michael Webber, Office of the Attorney General
- **Prosecuting Elder Abuse:** Assistant Attorney General, Leanne Robbin, Director of the Maine Attorney General's Financial Crimes and Civil Rights Division
- **Civil Responses to Elder Abuse:** Rebecca Henry, Esq., Director of Legal Services for the Elderly's Elder Justice Project
- **A Forensic Look at Elder Abuse:** Jim Ferland, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
- **Protecting Seniors from Consumer Fraud:** Assistant Attorney General Jim McKenna, Author of the Maine Consumer Law Guide
- **Developing an Elder Abuse Coalition:** Representatives of TRIAD, the Elder Justice Project, the Elder Abuse Institute of Maine, Maine Elder Death Analysis Review Team, and other programs which can be replicated locally.

### Registration Information

Registration should be directed to the Maine Criminal Justice Academy utilizing a standard in-service training application. Applications are available online at [www.maine.gov/dps/mcja](http://www.maine.gov/dps/mcja). Class size is limited, so enrollment will be handled on a first come, first serve basis. Tuition is \$40 per student plus meals and lodging. Please fax your completed in service training application to the Academy at 207-877-8027.

### Who Should Attend?

Current Elder Service Officers who have not already attended this course or those who are interested in joining the program. Patrol officers, detectives or supervisors who are involved in responding to cases of elder abuse, neglect or financial exploitation are encouraged to attend.



Maine Office of the  
Attorney General

6 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333  
Phone: 207-626-8520  
Fax: 207-287-3120  
Email: michael.l.webber@maine.gov