

Elder Abuse Conference

c/o Great Gatherings LLC

PO Box 9005

Augusta ME 04338

Elder Abuse: Developing A Community Response

Registration limited! Respond quickly!

Elder Abuse:

Developing A Community Response

Presented and Sponsored by the Maine Office of the Attorney General



Monday, May 3, 2004 ♦ Augusta Civic Center

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Keynote Speaker: Attorney General G. Steven Rowe

This conference will raise attendees' awareness of both the prevalence and forms of Elder Abuse.

Co-Sponsored by:

Maine Community Policing Institute
Maine Bureau of Elder & Adult Services
Legal Services for the Elderly

Maine Department of Public Safety
AARP

CEU information Application for CEU approval has been made to Maine Board of Overseers to the Bar, Maine Criminal Justice Academy, and licensing boards for Social Workers, Nursing Home and Residential Care Administrators.

REGISTER ONLINE You may register online at the Attorney General's website: www.maine.gov/ag

Who Should Attend

- ✓ Advocates for the Elderly
- ✓ Attorneys serving Elders
- ✓ Direct Care Workers
- ✓ Facility Administrators
- ✓ Judiciary
- ✓ Law Enforcement Officers
- ✓ Legislators
- ✓ Medical Providers
- ✓ Prosecutors
- ✓ Service Providers
- ✓ Social Workers
- ✓ Those involved in elder safety issues
- ✓ Volunteers and others concerned about elder abuse

Learning Objectives

- ✓ Provide an accurate picture of the dynamics and prevalence of elder abuse.
- ✓ Identify what systems are in place to protect seniors, and what is still needed.
- ✓ Raise awareness levels that elder abuse is a crime, it happens, and it's not just a family matter.
- ✓ Provide opportunities to recreate programs locally which will address elder abuse.
- ✓ Identify current scams which target seniors, and how we can reduce these crimes.

Scholarships

A limited number of scholarships are available. Please include a brief paragraph with your registration explaining your involvement in the field and why you are requesting a scholarship.

Directions to the Augusta Civic Center (Phone 207-626-2405)

From the South: Take exit 112A (previously exit 31A) off Route 95. Bear right. The Civic Center will be on your right.

From the North: Take exit 112 (previously exit 31) off Route 95. Take a quick left. The Civic Center will be on your right.

A Few Facts . . .

- Maine has the 3rd oldest population in the nation.
- There are an estimated 5 million victims of elder abuse each year; 12,000 of those are believed to be Maine seniors.
- 84% of all elder abuse cases go unreported.
- Over 40% of all elder abuse cases involve financial exploitation.
- Elder victims of abuse are three times more likely to die within the next decade than the same age adults who are not mistreated.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

8:00 - 8:45 Registration

8:45 - 8:55 Opening Remarks / Housekeeping Mike Webber, *Office of the Attorney General*

8:55 - 9:05 Welcoming Remarks Michael Cantara, *Commissioner, Maine Dept of Public Safety*
Christine Giannopoulos, *Director, Bureau of Elder & Adult Services, DHS*
Paul Lavin, *Director, Legal Services for the Elderly*

9:05 - 9:45 Keynote Speaker G. Steven Rowe, Attorney General

10:00 - 11:30 Plenary Session: *The Dynamics of Elder Abuse*

Each year an estimated 12,000 Maine seniors are victims of physical and sexual abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation. Sadly, 70 – 90% of the perpetrators are family members, loved ones, or caregivers. **Ricker Hamilton** and **Rick Mooers**, both of whom are protective program administrators with the Maine Bureau of Elder and Adult Services, will address the dynamics of elder abuse and its substantial, sometimes fatal, impact on seniors.

11:30 - 12:30 Lunch

12:30 - 1:00 Plenary Session: *Building an Elder Abuse Alliance*

Older victims of abuse and exploitation need all of us, not just one of us: **John Scheft**, who from 1993 - 1995 served as the Director of the Massachusetts Attorney General's Elderly Protection Project, will discuss the importance of a collaborative and comprehensive approach to elder abuse.

1:00 - 2:30 Afternoon Workshops

1. *Civil Remedies to Elder Abuse*: There are times when a criminal prosecution is not possible, or may not be the appropriate response to elder abuse. **Rebecca Henry**, Director of the Elder Justice Project, and Assistant Attorney General **Carmen Coulombe** of the Maine Office of the Attorney General, will discuss civil remedies to elder abuse. Topics will include seniors and the court system, civil actions that can be brought to protect seniors, powers of attorney, protection orders, and guardianship / conservatorship.

2. *Prosecuting Elder Abuse*: Prosecuting elder abuse can be difficult, and sometimes very challenging. Assistant Attorney General **Maria Robinson** of the Office of the Attorney General's Health Care Crimes Unit, a former prosecutor with the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, and Assistant Attorney General **Todd Lowell**, a former Assistant District Attorney, who while employed by the Lincoln County District Attorney's Office prosecuted a number of elder abuse cases, will discuss prosecution strategies and techniques for presenting evidence in elder abuse cases and also the difficulties in bringing these types of cases to trial.

3. *Scams Which Target Seniors*: Scam artists frequently target seniors as victims. This is of increasing concern as an estimated 70% of the nation's net worth is held by those 50 years of age or older. Assistant Attorney General **Jim McKenna** of the Office of the Consumer Protection Division will discuss methods used to exploit seniors and the Consumer Protection laws which are in place to protect them.

4. *Financial Exploitation of the Elderly by Loved Ones*: An estimated 40% of elder abuse cases involve financial exploitation. Sadly, in nearly 90% of those cases, the offender is a family member or loved one. Detective **Michael Webber**, an elder abuse investigator with the Office of the Attorney General, and **Jennifer Minkowitz**, the managing Hotline Attorney for Legal Services for the Elderly, will discuss law enforcement and civil responses to this "silent epidemic."

5. *The Aging Process; Why Seniors are Victimized*: **Amy Cotton**, CS, FNP, will discuss physiological changes that may predispose older adults to victimization. Attendees will learn to understand ageism and how to avoid stereotyping. Communications strategies for talking with seniors will be provided.

6. *A Forensic Look at Elder Abuse*: **Jim Ferland**, an Administrator with the Maine Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and former Chief of Police in Presque Isle, Maine, will discuss markers and indicators of physical abuse and neglect as it relates to seniors. Attendees will leave better prepared to identify the warning signs of abuse and neglect of some of Maine's most vulnerable citizens.

2:45 - 4:00 Plenary Session: *Building Local Capacity for Identifying and Responding to Elder Abuse*

Community involvement is essential to the prevention of elder abuse. Representatives of TRIAD, the Elder Service Officer Program, the Elder Justice Project, the Elder Abuse Institute of Maine, Family Crisis Services, and the Maine Elder Death Analysis Review Team will discuss their programs, and how they are working to build local capacity for identifying, preventing, and responding to elder abuse.

Program subject to change without notice

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REGISTRATION FEE: \$25. Registration includes lunch and conference materials. Payment or purchase order **MUST** accompany your registration to be considered complete. Complete registrations will be processed in the order they are received. Confirmation of completed registrations will be emailed or faxed whenever possible.

DEADLINE: Registrations must be received by April 12. Sorry, no refunds on cancellations received after this date. Cancellations must be received in writing or by email. Registered no shows will be billed.

For further information, please contact Great Gatherings at 207-622-5330 or GreatGather@aol.com.

Name _____
First Name for Name Badge _____
Title _____
Organization _____
Address _____
Town / Zip _____
Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

I request: Vegetarian Lunch _____ a Certificate of Attendance _____

Reasonable arrangements for persons with disabilities or special dietary needs will be made if requested before April 12. Contact Great Gatherings.

AFTERNOON WORKSHOP (please indicate workshop code e.g. 1, 5) 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____

SCHOLARSHIPS

Do you want to contribute to a scholarship fund so that others may attend? Amount enclosed \$ _____

A limited number of scholarships are available. Please include a brief paragraph with your registration explaining your involvement in the field and why you are requesting a scholarship.

DISPLAY SPACE

A limited amount of space will be available for program information and other resource materials. Would your organization like to have a display? YES _____ Amount of space requested: _____ Half an eight (8) foot table
_____ Room to put out brochures

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Make check or PO payable to "State of Maine" and mail with completed registration to AG's Conference c/o Great Gatherings LLC, PO Box 9005, Augusta ME 04338. Registrations with a PO or credit card information may be faxed to 207-622-6228.

Check or PO number _____ \$ _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED

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Credit Card Information: _____ VISA _____ MC Card # _____

Exp Date ____/____/____ Cardholder's Name as shown on card _____

Signature _____ Authorized amount to be charged: \$ _____

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.MAINE.GOV/AG! IT'S QUICK! IT'S EASY! IT'S DONE!