

Archdiocese of Seattle

Safe Environment Program

SAFE ENVIRONMENT AND WORKING WITH VULNERABLE ADULTS

Females are more likely victims of abuse

They are often abused by a:

- Son
- Grandson
- Husband
- Caretaker

Some are victims their whole life

- Child abuse
- Domestic violence

Many are victims of financial abuse

- Identity theft
- Someone else controls finances and uses money for personal gain

Tips for Working with Vulnerable Adults

- Ask questions to the Vulnerable Adult
 - How are you being cared for?
- Look for physical signs of abuse:
 - Bruises
 - Unexplained patterns of injury
- Schedule visits regularly
 - Share schedule with supervisors
 - Give updates to supervisors regularly
- Occasional phone check-in
- Report any uncommon conversations

The principals of Safe Environment are the same with Vulnerable adults:

- Be vigilant
- Watch for signs of abuse
- Report suspicions of abuse or neglect!

Remember: As someone who visits vulnerable adults on a regular basis, you may be the only person who sees the vulnerable adult each week besides their caretaker. **You may be the only person in a position to recognize possible abuse.**