

# 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.**