

CPEAN

The Center for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and Neglect
at Hebrew SeniorLife

CPEAN provides
safe shelter & services
for **seniors suffering**
from abuse, neglect or financial
exploitation.

We work to prevent elder abuse
by increasing awareness and
providing education.



ABOUT THE CENTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF ELDER ABUSE AND NEGLECT AT HEBREW SENIORLIFE

Hebrew SeniorLife is dedicated to combating the incidence of elder abuse in Massachusetts through its Center for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and Neglect (CPEAN). Launched in 2018, CPEAN provides safe shelter and services for seniors suffering from abuse, neglect or financial exploitation, and works to prevent elder abuse by increasing awareness and providing education. CPEAN operates the first and only emergency shelter program in Massachusetts exclusively for seniors. We are 100% funded by philanthropy.

THE CRISIS OF ELDER ABUSE

Elder abuse is a growing epidemic, as each year millions of older Americans are abused, neglected and exploited, including thousands in Massachusetts. From 2015 to 2017, the number of confirmed cases of elder abuse in Massachusetts increased approximately 38% from 7,117 to 9,799. Alarming, research shows that 1 in 5 older people has experienced elder abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic, a jump of nearly 84% over pre-pandemic estimates. Research also suggests that elder abuse is widely underreported due to factors such as an older person's fear of retaliation by the offender, reluctance to disclose the incident because of shame or embarrassment, concern about being institutionalized, dependency on the offender, and an inability to report because of physical limitations or cognitive impairments.

WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?

Elder abuse is an intentional act or failure to act that causes or creates a risk of harm to an adult age 60 or older. The abuse often occurs at the hands of a caregiver or a person the older adult trusts. Common types of elder abuse include:

- **PHYSICAL ABUSE** is when an older adult experiences illness, pain, injury, functional impairment, distress, or death as a result of the intentional use of physical force and includes acts such as hitting, kicking, pushing, slapping, and burning.
- **SEXUAL ABUSE** involves forced or unwanted sexual interaction of any kind with an older adult. This may include unwanted sexual contact or penetration or non-contact acts such as sexual harassment.
- **EMOTIONAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE** refers to verbal or nonverbal behaviors that inflict anguish, mental pain, fear, or distress on an older adult. Examples include humiliation or disrespect, verbal and non-verbal threats, harassment, and geographic or interpersonal isolation.
- **NEGLECT (INCLUDING SELF-NEGLECT)** is the failure to meet an older adult's basic needs. These needs include food, water, shelter, clothing, hygiene, and essential medical care.
- **FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION** is the illegal, unauthorized, or improper use of an older adult's money, benefits, belongings, property, or assets for the benefit of someone other than the older adult.



SAFE SPACE, HEALING SUPPORTS

Our innovative shelter program for seniors meets a critical need for those who are in danger, providing them with a safe place to stay and the supportive services and resources necessary for them to begin to heal.

We utilize Hebrew SeniorLife's independent living and post-acute settings to provide safe shelter, depending on a client's care needs and geographic preferences. Shelter units are furnished and decorated with a senior's needs in mind and located in age-friendly settings with various services and amenities available on-site. While seniors at imminent risk are encouraged to take advantage of our safe shelter spaces, we do also offer supportive services to those individuals wishing to stay in community.

Whether the senior is with us on-site, or opts to stay elsewhere, we work together with community partners to provide whatever supportive services may be necessary to help that senior transition to a safer permanent environment. Examples of services available to a senior include: financial planning and application for benefits; medical care; trauma-informed counseling; transportation to/from appointments; personal care assistance; case management; and legal representation.

EMERGENCY SHELTER REQUIREMENTS AND ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for emergency shelter at CPEAN, an individual must be age 60 or over and be unsafe in their environment due to an immediate and active threat of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation. There are no financial eligibility requirements. The senior must not have an alternative safe place to stay. A plan for transitioning to a permanent housing or care setting after shelter must be in place prior to admission. We evaluate referrals made to us to ensure shelter eligibility on a case-by-case basis.

TO MAKE A REFERRAL, INQUIRE ABOUT SERVICES, OR EXPLORE EDUCATION OR PROGRAMMING OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

CPEAN

The Center for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and Neglect
at Hebrew SeniorLife

Phone: 617-363-8423

Email: Elderabuseprevention@hsl.harvard.edu

hebrewseniorlife.org/about-us/innovative-programs-and-initiatives

TO REPORT ELDER ABUSE, NEGLECT OR EXPLOITATION IN MASSACHUSETTS 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK:

**CONTACT
THE MASSACHUSETTS EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OF ELDER AFFAIRS (EOEA)**

Phone: (800) 922-2275 or

Online: www.mass.gov/report-elder-abuse

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OPERATES THE FIRST AND ONLY EMERGENCY SHELTER PROGRAM IN MASSACHUSETTS EXCLUSIVELY FOR SENIORS. WE ARE 100% FUNDED BY PHILANTHROPY.

TO DONATE VISIT

giving.hebrewseniorlife.org

Select "Other Designation", type CPEAN.

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Hebrew SeniorLife



HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL AFFILIATE

ABOUT HEBREW SENIORLIFE

Hebrew SeniorLife is an integrated, multi-site system of health care, communities, research and teaching that serves more than 3,000 seniors a day throughout Greater Boston. As part of its mission and rooted in Jewish tradition, Hebrew SeniorLife accepts special responsibility to deliver services in a manner that preserves independence, quality of life, and dignity for the frailest and neediest members of the community. We serve seniors of all faiths and backgrounds, and every person receives the same level of care regardless of religion, culture, race, sexual orientation, gender expression, or class background.