COMMON SIGNS OF DOMESTIC OR SEXUAL ABUSE:

- Bruises, (that look like they came from choking, punching or defending oneself) welts, black eyes, hand/fist imprint marks, burns.
- Red or purple marks at the neck.
- Fractures, cuts, open wounds, sprains, and dislocations of the wrist (defensive wounds).
- Unexplained venereal disease, genital infections, vaginal or anal bleeding or bruising in these areas.

THERE ARE ALSO EMOTIONAL EFFECTS OF DOMESTIC OR SEXUAL ABUSE:

- PTSD
- Depression and Anxiety
- Chronic Fatigue
- Muscle Tension
- Involuntary Shaking
- Changes in eating and sleeping patterns

SOUTH MISSISSIPPI RURAL SENIOR ABUSE NETWORK

1-800-444-8014  www.smpdd.com

For Direct assistance with Domestic or Sexual Abuse contact:

Care Coordinator: Missy O’Keeffe
(228) 314-1485  mokeefe@smpdd.com

For Training and Community Education contact:

Program Manager: Gretta Ingram, RN
(228) 314-1434  gingram@smpdd.com

“Only you can help STOP it

“"This project was supported by Award No. 2016-WR-AX-0012 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinion, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and does not necessarily reflect the view of the Department of Justice."
STATISTICS

- Data describing Domestic and Sexual abuse in elderly and RURAL populations is extremely limited.

- According to the National Elder Mistreatment Study:
  - 1.6 percent of adults over age 60 reported physical abuse.
  - One percent reported sexual abuse.
  - 85 percent of older adults who experience Sexual abuse and Domestic abuse do not report the abuse to anyone.\(^1\)
  - 50% percent of perpetrators of abuse were family members.

SOUTH MISSISSIPPI RURAL SENIOR ABUSE NETWORK is HOUSED IN GULFPORT AT SMPDD.

The network covers the rural areas of Covington, Forrest, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Lamar, Marion, Pearl River, Perry, Stone and Wayne. SMPDD works in coordination with the following agencies to provide services; Domestic Abuse Family Shelter (DAFS), Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence (GCCFN), Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS), and Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence (MCADV).


SERVICES

Training and Community Education

One of the main focuses of the SOUTH MISSISSIPPI RURAL SENIOR ABUSE NETWORK is to educate area Senior Centers, health care providers, caregivers, anyone that may interact with SENIORS on a daily basis of the prevalence of Domestic and Sexual abuse against our SENIORS. Domestic and Sexual abuse is under reported in the SENIOR population for a plethora of reasons; fear of repercussions, financial and physical dependence on the perpetrators, embarrassment, lack of resources, and knowledge of who to go to for support.

SOUTH MISSISSIPPI RURAL SENIOR ABUSE NETWORK provides two annual trainings. The network will also provide community education and outreach at the area senior centers in order to provide education on the topic to our SENIORS. Training under the project provides outreach workers with the knowledge to effectively identify and address a broader spectrum of Domestic and Sexual abuse with a specific focus on connecting SENIORS to local victim service agencies.

Care Coordination

The Care Coordinator provides direct assistance to victims by providing resource referrals to emergency housing, medical and mental health care, counseling, legal advice, and transitional housing.