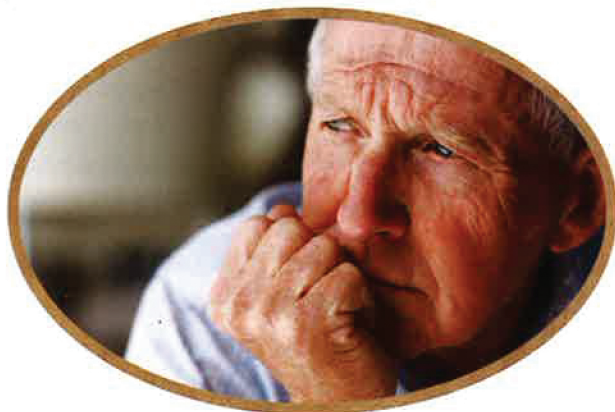


## COMMON SIGNS OF DOMESTIC OR SEXUAL ABUSE:

- \* 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



**Abuse hurts at any age...**

## SOUTH MISSISSIPPI RURAL SENIOR ABUSE NETWORK

**1-800-444-8014    [www.smpdd.com](http://www.smpdd.com)**

For Direct assistance with Domestic or  
Sexual Abuse contact:

**Care Coordinator: Missy O'Keffe**  
(228) 314-1485    [mokeefe@smpdd.com](mailto:mokeefe@smpdd.com)

For Training and  
Community Education contact:

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



## SOUTH MISSISSIPPI RURAL SENIOR ABUSE NETWORK



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**Only you  
can help STOP it**



**SOUTH MISSISSIPPI RURAL  
SENIOR ABUSE NETWORK  
PARTNERS WITH AREA AGENCIES  
TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:**

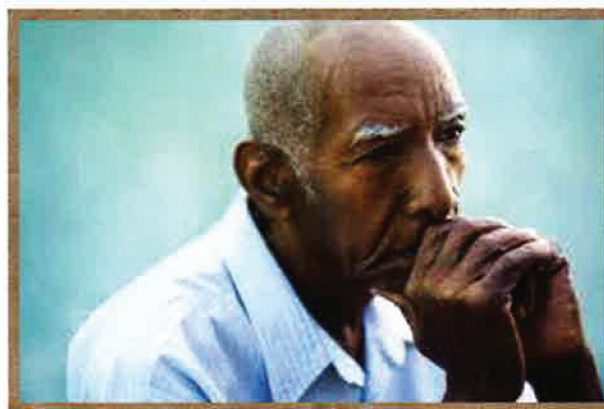
- ✱ Increased awareness of **SENIOR** Domestic and Sexual abuse in the general public.
- ✱ Create a reporting system **RURAL** in areas.
- ✱ Educate home health workers, caregivers, and others who interact with **SENIORS** on a daily basis of the warning signs of senior abuse.
- ✱ Care coordination, resource referrals, safety evaluation and planning and in crisis situations some immediate assistance in the form of temporary housing.

**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).

## 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<sup>1</sup>.
  - 50% percent of perpetrators of abuse were family members.



1 Acierno, R. Hernandez-Tejada, M., Steve.K. National Elder Mistreatment Study. U.S. Department of Justice. 2009.

## 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.