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Florida Department of Elder Affairs and Florida Department of Children and Families Recognize World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

~ Elder Affairs to Host Awareness Events Across Florida ~

TALLAHASSEE – In recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) and to help build safer communities for more than 5.5 million older Floridians, the Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) will host statewide events for Floridians to learn about elder abuse and how to report abuse to authorities.

June 15 is a worldwide awareness effort to focus attention on the growing problem of elder abuse. Across the globe on WEADD, people will wear purple to honor elders, and there will be events hosted on five different continents throughout June.

“I encourage all Floridians to be aware of the signs of elder abuse and immediately report known or suspected abuse,” said Florida Governor Ron DeSantis. **“Our elders are valued members of our society, and we continue our efforts to keep Florida a safe and welcoming place for seniors.”**

“Florida’s elders should be respected and treated with dignity,” said Florida Department of Elder Affairs Secretary Richard Prudom. **“Far too many are victimized by abuse. Being aware of the signs of abuse is critical, and it is up to each of us to put an end to this shameful practice so that our seniors can live and age well.”**

In the last fiscal year, the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) received **39,041** reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of Florida elders. More than **8,000** of them, or **21** percent, were reports of financial exploitation – the third largest category of reported abuse. For every case of abuse reported, it is estimated that 24 are not because the victim is too afraid or embarrassed to report it.

“World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is an important time to remind ourselves of the respect and admiration elders in our community deserve,” said DCF Secretary Chad Poppell. **“Our elders have given so much to us - their love, time, and wisdom. By recognizing the signs of elder abuse and knowing who to call, we can help end elder abuse.”**

The DOEA Elder Abuse Prevention Program works to educate all Floridians, including seniors, caregivers, family members, and Aging Network professionals about the prevention of abuse and how to report it.

To view a list of awareness events in your area, please click [here](#).

If you are a victim or suspect elder abuse, please contact the Florida Abuse Hotline at 1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873). If you would like more information about the Department's Elder Abuse Prevention Program, contact DOEA at 850-414-2000.

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The Department of Elder Affairs, the State Unit on Aging, helps Florida's elders to remain healthy, safe, and independent. For more information, please visit elderaffairs.org.

