



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Social Services To Host Elder Abuse Awareness Day June 5

FAYETTEVILLE – The Cumberland County Department of Social Services will host an Elder Abuse Awareness Day event June 5 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Social Services building at 1225 Ramsey St. The public is invited to the free event, which will feature three educational presenters followed by an open panel forum for the public to ask questions.

The presenters are Kathryn Lanier, Elder Rights Section Chief of the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services; LeShana Baldwin, Adult Protective Services Program Consultant, of the NCDHHS; and Deputy Tim Britt of the Cumberland County Sheriff's Special Victims Unit.

State statutes give the Departments of Social Services the authority to evaluate allegations of elder abuse, neglect or exploitation and refer cases over to Adult Protective Services for investigation.

Some of the signs of elder abuse may include: unexplained bruises, fractures, black eyes, burns, pinch marks, scratches or inappropriate actions from a caretaker, family member or significant others. Signs of neglect may include poor personal hygiene issues, imposed isolation, inability to obtain proper health care and poor nutrition resulting in sudden weight loss. Signs of exploitation may include sudden changes in ownership of property and sudden changes in access to an individual's bank accounts without proper authorization.

Cumberland County DSS, the Mid-Carolina Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging and the Cumberland County Coordinating Council on Older Adults are sponsoring the event. For more information, call Kareem Strong of the Mid-Carolina Area Agency on Aging at 910-321-1491 ext. 25. The Department of Social Services can be reached at 910-323-1540.

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