

Finding Help

If you have ever been the victim of sexual violence, there is help. There are people who will listen to you and understand your experience. Florida has laws specifically designed to protect the elderly from physical abuse and neglect. It is your right to be safe. Abuse of the elderly should be reported to Florida's abuse hotline at:
1-800-962-2873.

In emergencies, or when you need to talk with someone in your community about safety, call the police by dialing 911.

A trusted doctor, nurse, caretaker or family member may be helpful to talk to. You can also contact your local rape crisis center. They will have information and resources available to you and will help you create a healing plan that meets your individual needs.

There is help...you can talk with someone who will listen, who understands.

You don't need to hide your feelings or pretend they are not there.
You are not alone.

For More Information,
Contact Your
Local Rape Crisis Center

or call



**Florida Council Against
Sexual Violence**

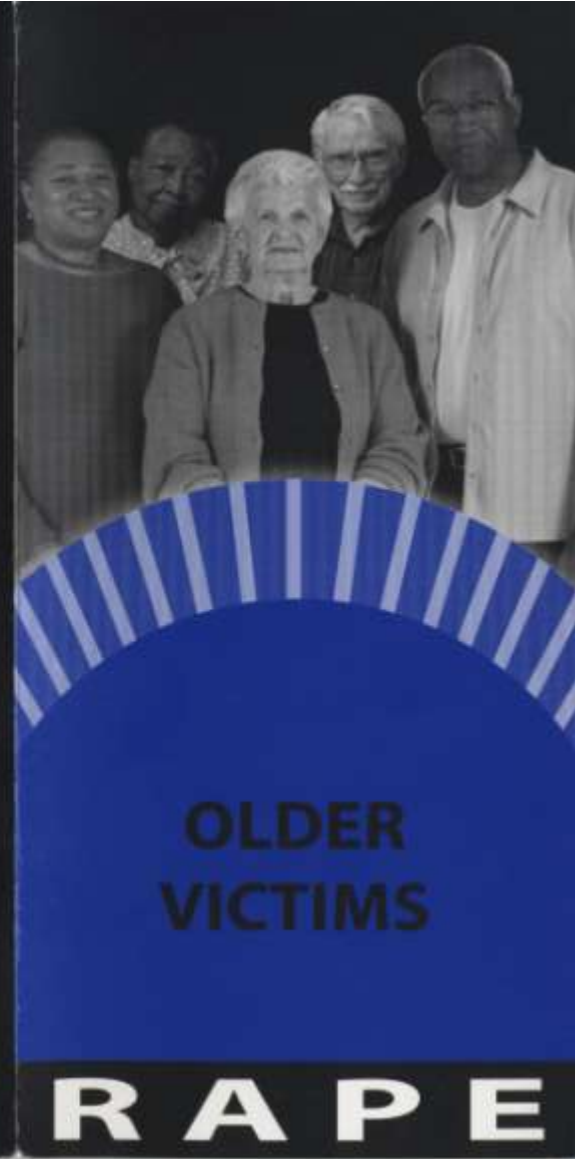
1311-A Paul Russell Road
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Information Line: 1-888-956-RAPE

Office: (850) 297-2000

www.fcasv.org

This project was supported by Grant No. 2000-WF-VX-0015 awarded by the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official positions or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice, the Florida Department of Children and Families or any other agency of the state or federal government. This project was also supported by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



**OLDER
VICTIMS**

RAPE

RAPE: HELPING OLDER VICTIMS



What is Sexual Violence?

It is never the victim's fault. Sexual violence has nothing to do with what the victim should or should not have done to prevent the assault—it is entirely the fault of the attacker. If you have been a victim of sexual violence, it is important to remember that it was not your fault and you are not alone.

Sexual violence can happen to anyone at any time, regardless of their age or background. Elderly people face difficulties and obstacles in dealing with sexual assault that other people do not, including a harder time reaching help and healing physically and emotionally.

Many elderly citizens are victimized and abused by the very people they depend on for their physical and mental well-being. In 80% of sexual assaults against the elderly, the victims know their attackers.

If someone you care about has been a victim of sexual violence, there are several things you can do to help.

- Check to insure their safety.
- Believe them.
- Encourage expression of any and all feelings, and LISTEN.
- Let them know that this was not their fault and that they are not alone.
- Help them report the crime to law enforcement.
- Make sure that they get prompt medical help.
- You can also help by gathering information and resources that can assist survivors of elder sexual abuse. Contact your local rape crisis center for information on how to help your loved one.

How You Can Help