



COUNTY OF FRESNO

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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 15, 2017

### **TODAY IS WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY**

Today, June 15, 2017, is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) was launched on June 15, 2006, by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization at the United Nations. WEAAD's purpose is to provide an opportunity for communities around the world to promote a better understanding of elder mistreatment by raising awareness of the cultural, social, economic, and demographic factors that drive and influence elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Each year, an estimated 5 million older persons are abused, neglected, and exploited. Older adults throughout the United States lose an estimated \$2.6 billion or more annually due to elder financial abuse and exploitation, funds that they desperately need to pay for basics such as housing, food, and medical care. It is estimated that only about one in five of those crimes are ever reported.

As the number of older adults continues to grow, we are seeing more people becoming vulnerable to this type of abuse and neglect. It is up to us, the community as a whole, to keep a watchful eye on our elderly family members, neighbors, and community members. Please call Fresno Adult Protective Services at (559) 600-3383 or (800) 418-1426 if you suspect that an older or dependent adult needs help. In an emergency, please call 911.

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office remains committed to prosecuting individuals who prey on our elderly and dependent neighbors.



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