

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ADULT ABUSE PROFESSIONALS AND SURVIVORS

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New Information and Support Programs for Survivors, Advocates and Professionals in Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse

(Glendale, WI – August 12, 2005) Responding to acute needs and taking full advantage of technological advances, the American Society of Adult Abuse Professionals and Survivors (ASAAPS) announces new, free, services by email for elders or adults with disabilities who have been abused, neglected, exploited, or self-neglected; their family members and friends; and the advocates and professionals who serve them.

ASAAPS has launched three public service email listserves.

The ASAAPS listserve is available to anyone who is interested in working to prevent or alleviate abuse of elders and/or adults with disabilities, including (but not limited to) protective services professionals, survivors and their family members, advocates, members of the media, students and researchers, and the myriad of other professionals and volunteers who work with elders and/or adults with disabilities. It helps subscribers keep up with the field by providing news of emerging frauds; new resources, research, publications and training opportunities; newly-introduced legislation and newly-enacted laws, regulations and policies; new programs; prosecutions; and other key developments. It disseminates skills and knowledge by providing a forum for exchanging advice, technical assistance, and model documents or programs, and for discussing ethical and policy issues. It contributes to field development by providing students and the media with direct access to some of the field's best practitioners and thinkers. And it provides technical and emotional support in resolving complicated cases.

The SURVIVORS listserve is open to those who have directly or indirectly experienced elder abuse or abuse of a disabled adult, and to professionals who wish to support them. Being the victim of abuse, neglect, fraud, or exploitation can be emotionally, financially, physically, and spiritually devastating. Victims often feel as though their world, their family, their sense of safety, and even their faith in life itself have been permanently broken. ASAAPS' Survivors

listserve provides a place where people can write about what happened, begin to explore their options, and provide support to others by sharing what they have learned. Topics discussed on the listserve include: emotional responses people have to being abused or witnessing the abuse of someone close to them; techniques and resources survivors have found useful in coping with what has happened; experiences listserve participants have had in working with various services and professionals; actions people have taken (or can take) to turn their experiences into positive personal growth and/or community betterment; how to think through the possible implications of available courses of action; and whatever else a survivor or the relative or friend of a survivor needs to talk about to begin to feel reconnected to a caring community.

STILL SEEKING HELP is ASAAPS' most narrowly-focused listserve. People may seek help from adult protective services, long-term care ombudsmen, protection and advocacy services, regulators, law enforcement, or other officials to help them deal with their own, their loved one's, or their neighbor's suspected abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, or self-neglect. Sometimes the help people seek is not forthcoming, either because the victim doesn't fit the organization's service profile, or for other reasons. Still Seeking Help is an email listserve designed to support those to which this has happened. They may want to find another service provider, appeal the initial ruling, hold the system accountable, file a lawsuit, or simply grieve their inability to access help. Still Seeking Help links people who are struggling with the same issues, so they can provide each other with support, encouragement, and ideas.

To find out more about the ASAAPS listserves or to sign up for one or more, go to the ASAAPS webpage http://www.ASAAPS.org/aboutus/listserves_sub.php and fill out the form. You may also send an email to listserves@ASAAPS.org indicating which listserve/s you wish to sign up for.

The American Society of Adult Abuse Professionals and Survivors (ASAAPS) networks, supports, and educates people concerned about abuse of elders and adults with disabilities; advocates for the continued improvement of systems serving adult victims of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and self-neglect; and develops and expands leadership in the field. We make many resources available to the general public as well as to our members; see our website at www.ASAAPS.org for more information or to join.

For those who would like to alert survivors, professionals, or others to the ASAAPS and Survivors listserves, downloadable flyers are available at <http://www.asaaps.org/aboutus/listserves.php>.