



**Beth W. Duncan**  
Director

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Board Chair

**PRESS RELEASE: Elder Abuse**

**“World Elder Abuse Awareness Day June 15, 2017”**

Elder abuse is physical abuse, sexual abuse, abandonment, abduction, isolation, emotional or psychological abuse, financial abuse (exploitation), or neglect by a trusted individual or caregiver, including relatives and friends. Self-Neglect is also a form of elder abuse. Elder abuse can happen to anyone and occur anywhere: a person’s own home, in family member’s homes, in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, family care homes, and other institutional settings. It affects seniors across all socioeconomic groups, cultures and races.

North Carolina enacted the nation’s first elder abuse law and is a mandatory reporting state. That means that any person who believes a disabled or elderly adult is being abused, neglected or exploited is required to report the situation to the local County Department of Social Services. In Randolph County, please call the Randolph County Adult Abuse Hot Line at (336) 683-8300. Making a report in instances of abuse or neglect is the right thing to do, and it’s easy. Don’t be afraid! Elders have a right to be safe!

Data shows that some of the common risk factors associated with elder abuse are dementia, mental health or substance abuse issues (that is substance abuse by the victim, perpetrator, or both), social isolation, and poor physical health which increases vulnerability.

Last fiscal year in Randolph County, DSS investigated 148 reports alleging abuse, neglect or exploitation.

- The adult child is the most frequently named perpetrator...followed by a spouse
- 95% were on adults living in their own homes
- 5% of the reports were on individuals living in long term care facilities
- 79% were 60 years of age or older
- 59% of all reports were concerning women
- 40% were self-neglect
- 21% were care taker neglect
- 39% were a combination of both self-neglect and care taker neglect

The Piedmont Triad’s 6th Annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Walk, Stroll and Roll Walk will be held on June 17, 2017, at TRIAD PARK, 9652 East Mountain Street, Kernersville, NC. Registration is at 9:00am; music and entertainment at 9:45am; and walk begins at 10:00am. There is NO COST TO PARTICIPATE! You can pre-register at [kjohnson@ptrc.org](mailto:kjohnson@ptrc.org) or call Kim Johnson at 336-904-0300 or just show up for the walk.

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**[www.co.randolph.nc.us/dss/](http://www.co.randolph.nc.us/dss/)**

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