



Abuse of Older Adults Protocol

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Abuse of Older Adults

“D” Division (Manitoba) RCMP do not have a dedicated Vulnerable Persons Coordinator position similar to Winnipeg Police Service. This is primarily for geographic or demographic reasons.



Abuse of Older Adults

- Reports of abuse of older adults are received at the detachment level and are assessed and investigated based upon the nature of the issue ie: assault (sexual/physical), theft, theft by power of attorney, fraud, Failure to provide the necessaries of life etc.
- There is no criminal code offence distinctly referring to “Elder Abuse”.



Abuse of Older Adults

- All complaints of this nature are investigated in the same manner as per RCMP operational policy, regardless of the age of the victim(s).
- Incidents involving older adults can add additional challenges to the investigation.



Abuse of Older Adults

Investigative Challenges

- All investigations involving older adults will normally require a “competency assessment”, whether formal or informal.
- An effective and efficient “competency assessment” process is often not available, especially in rural locations.
- Isolation of victims.



Abuse of Older Adults

Investigative Challenges

- The physical condition of some older adults may necessitate a “fast track” investigational/court process which may not be possible.....every person charged with an offence has the right to “due process of law”, sometimes to the detriment of an aging victim.



Abuse of Older Adults

Investigative Challenges

- **The lack of awareness of the issue within all groups (appears to be improving as a result of the many teaching campaigns present).**
- **Believed to be a grossly underreported offence for a variety of reasons including lack of awareness, embarrassment, family protection, fear etc.**
- **When in doubt..... Report it.....let us assess it.**



Abuse of Older Adults

Meeting Investigative Challenges

Best practice:

Audio/video taped statements



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Abuse of Older Adults

Meeting Investigative Challenges

- **Refer to appropriate resources to develop a team approach and increase options for older person**
 - **What services are required now, throughout investigation and following investigation?**
- **58% of older adults experiencing abuse decline help**
- **Continue to monitor situation and offer advice/support to older person and team of professionals**



Abuse of Older Adults

Recent Manitoba RCMP Investigations

Physical Assault: most often a family member living within or often frequenting the home of the victim, All serious in nature, as all assaults upon older adults are, ranging from a push to a “hit”.

Financial Abuse: Majority if not all received to date involve children or grandchildren alleging that a sibling or other close relative has abused the trust placed upon them by the older adult and have directed funds to themselves via various processes.



Abuse of Older Adults

Recent Manitoba RCMP Investigations

It is Common for the complainant to feel that the assets should have been or were meant to be directed to them or someone close to them. Frequently this is determined to not be a police matter and one only dealt with by a civil court process. This will never be well received by the complainant.



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Recent Manitoba RCMP Investigations

Neglect: Reports received from family members, service providers or neighbors.

- To date all have involved a competency assessment to some degree. In most of not all reported cases the older adult has been assessed as being able to make their own choices. No matter how deplorable others may view the circumstances.



Abuse of Older Adults

There Is Hope

Bill C-36: An Act to amend the Criminal Code (elder abuse) 2012

718.2(a)(iii.1) – “evidence that the offence had a significant impact on the victim, considering their age and other personal circumstances, including their health and financial situation is deemed to be an aggravating circumstance to be taken into consideration during sentencing”



Abuse of Older Adults

Strength in Working Together

- Provincial Elder Abuse Strategy
- Regional elder abuse response committees
- Developing multi-disciplinary relationships

Prevention and response is not one organization's responsibility



Abuse of Older Adults

June 15th



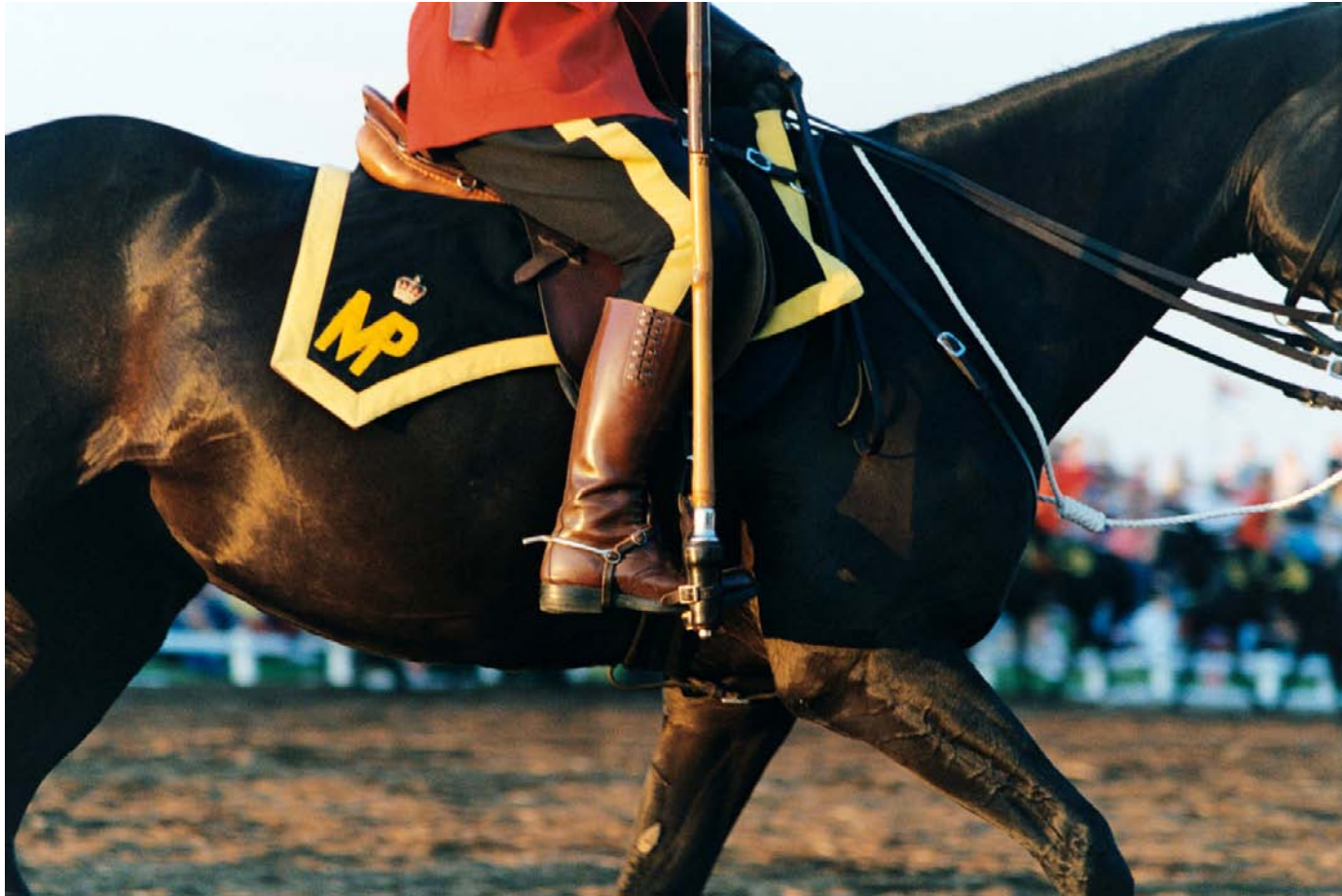
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