



ELDER JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

BACKGROUND

Elder abuse is a widespread social, public health, and economic issue. It is estimated that approximately 10% of older adults experience elder abuse, including physical abuse, psychological or verbal abuse, sexual abuse, financial exploitation, and neglect. Yet, like other forms of interpersonal violence, elder abuse usually occurs behind closed doors, and remains “invisible.” It is significantly under-identified and underreported, and for every case known to programs and agencies, 24 were unknown.

ABOUT THE COUNCIL

The Elder Justice Act of 2009 was passed as a step to address these problems, and it is dedicated to the prevention, detection, treatment, intervention and prosecution of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. The Act establishes the Elder Justice Coordinating Council (EJCC), designed to coordinate activities across the federal government related to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

The EJCC is directed by the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary serves as the Chair of the EJCC. The HHS Secretary has assigned responsibility for implementing the EJCC to the Administration on Aging (AoA) within ACL. The Elder Justice Act also names the U.S. Attorney General (AG) as a permanent member of the EJCC. In addition to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the AG, the statute provides for inclusion as EJCC members the heads of each federal department, agency, or governmental entity identified as administering programs related to abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation.

The EJCC is a permanent group, which meets twice a year, with the goal of better coordinating the federal response to the elder abuse problem. The EJCC will receive continuous input and support from an Elder Justice Interagency Working Group, a group of federal employees in Cabinet-level departments and federal agencies with expertise in the field of elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation.

ACTIVITIES

The EJCC has engaged in a number of activities to carry out its mission of improving coordination among federal agencies working on elder justice issues, and released three products. Please visit the Elder Justice Coordinating Council section on the ACL website (<https://www.acl.gov/programs/elder-justice/elder-justice-coordinating-council-ejcc#>) for more information on the following:

- Elder Justice Coordinating Council Meetings
- Eight Recommendations from the Elder Justice Coordinating Council for Increased Federal Involvement in Addressing Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation (PDF)
- Elder Justice Coordinating Council 2014 Report to Congress (PDF)
- Elder Justice Coordinating Council 2016 Report to Congress (PDF)