

LACKAWANNA COUNTY ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS

SCRANTON, PA---Lackawanna County's Area Agency on Aging (AAA) in conjunction with the Lackawanna County District Attorney's Office are working to raise awareness for elder abuse. AAA is being awarded two grants, the PA Department of Aging: Elder Abuse Honor & Respect Program Grant and the U.S. Department of Justice Elder Abuse Grant. These two grants lead to four specific projects:

- The AAA created, produced and distributed an Elder Abuse video.
- The Elder Abuse Task Force engaged in training activities to educate older adults and family members about the issues surrounding elder abuse.
- The AAA and the District Attorney's Office partnered to develop protocols to be followed by law enforcement when investigating an allegation of elder abuse.
- The AAA and the District Attorney's Office partnered to release the Elder Abuse Awareness Campaign Posters.

“This initiative marks the next step in a continued, multi-disciplinary response to elder abuse in Lackawanna County. Public awareness is a critical part of our mission. Over the past several years, I have re-doubled our efforts not only to prosecute those who abuse older citizens but also to seek new, innovative ways to prevent their exploitation. The commitment of specialized prosecutors and investigators, the re-establishment of an Elder Abuse Task Force and the soon to be released Elder Abuse Investigative Protocol all have combined to enhance the safety of our most valuable and vulnerable citizens,” said District Attorney Andy Jarbola.

“As a “baby boomer” on the edge of becoming a senior citizen, I believe that our elder citizens deserve not only our gratitude and respect, but our protection as well. It is time for us to take care of the people who took care of us. They taught us the difference between right and wrong. They molded my generation and this country into what it is today. Our goals are about honor, respect and protection. Our AAA along with the DA’s office will implement this program as a significant step in accomplishing those goals,” said Commissioner A.J. Munchak.

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