



Committee for the  
Coordination of Police  
Services to Elderly Persons

# 2018 Annual Report

New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services  
80 South Swan Street, Albany, New York 12210

**NEW YORK STATE**

**Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to Elderly Persons  
2018 Annual Report**

This report is submitted by the Committee as required by Section 844-b (3-a) of the New York State Executive Law. It details information about the Committee's activities and includes statistics from Domestic Incident Reports (DIRs) involving elderly victims (65 or older) from the 57 counties in New York State outside of New York City.

The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, Office of Public Safety, provides staff support to the Committee.

**Andrew M. Cuomo**

*Governor*

State of New York

**Michael C. Green**

*Executive Deputy Commissioner*

New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

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## Overview

In 2018, the New York State Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to Elderly Persons focused on developing and supporting training to improve the law enforcement response to elder abuse and raising awareness, among committee members and their constituents, of the resources available to elderly individuals.

The Committee met twice, on July 26, 2018, and November 20, 2018, at the state Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) in Albany. The Office of Public Safety (OPS) within DCJS provides staff support to the Committee. New York State Executive Law 844-b outlines the duties of the Committee, which include the support and development of programs, training, prevention practices and technical support to law enforcement agencies and service providers to combat crimes against the elderly.

The Committee disseminated an elder abuse toolkit to law enforcement to assist with identification and investigation of crimes against the elderly. In addition, the Committee continued to provide technical assistance through specific DCJS programs for agency constituents and brainstormed and identified innovative ways to work collaboratively to combat elder abuse and neglect.

## Committee Activities

### Law Enforcement Training

#### Law Enforcement Toolkit

Working in partnership with Lifespan of Greater Rochester and Office of Public Safety staff, the Committee developed and distributed an Elder Abuse Law Enforcement Toolkit designed to provide guidance, investigative tools, and resources to law enforcement officers in identifying and responding to elder abuse. The toolkit was distributed electronically to law enforcement agencies and it contains information and resources in the following areas: Forms of Elder Abuse, Investigations, Legal Resources, Training, and Community Resources. Some of the resources provided include:

- An Elder Abuse Guide for Law Enforcement;
- Sample protocols for responding to elder abuse;
- Investigative checklists for initial response and evidence collection;
- Legal resources, including state laws specific to elder abuse;
- Training opportunities, including Roll Call videos for law enforcement, the state's Basic Course for Police Officers Elder Abuse curriculum, the Alzheimer's Association's "Approaching Alzheimer's" online training, and Adult Protective Services online training; and
- Resources for the community, including brochures on scams and financial exploitation, among other topics.

The toolkit also contains links to relevant agencies that work in the field of combatting and addressing elder abuse, many of which are represented on the Committee and have contributed to the toolkit's content. The Committee will update the toolkit as new resources become available and are developed by agencies to assist law enforcement in investigating elder abuse. See Attachment C to review the toolkit.

### *Identifying and Investigating Financial Exploitation Training Series*

The DCJS Office of Public Safety, in collaboration with Lifespan of Greater Rochester and with the support of the Committee, developed and facilitated three trainings on the topic of financial exploitation. The day-long training provided a general overview of financial exploitation during the morning session while the afternoon session covered investigating and prosecuting financial exploitation cases. A total of 84 professionals attended the trainings, which were co-instructed by staff of Lifespan, a law enforcement investigator, and a regional security bank manager in the North Country (Clinton County), the Southern Tier (Steuben County), and Mohawk Valley (Oneida County).

## **Program Support and Informational Updates**

### *Office for the Aging Initiatives*

The Committee demonstrated its support of a screening instrument to be used in healthcare settings to detect elder abuse. The instrument is currently being piloted by the state Office for the Aging (OFA) in conjunction with the state Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS).

At its November meeting, the Committee heard a presentation from the Franklin County Office for the Aging about an initiative that trained all county 9-1-1 dispatchers to screen calls for elder abuse. This helps to determine where emergency resources can best be utilized in times of high call volume. Committee members expressed their support for the program and interest in utilizing the training model as a best practice.

## **Future Activities of The Committee**

The Committee and staff from the DCJS Office of Public Safety will continue to identify programs, in consultation with experts and service providers, designed to assist law enforcement agencies in their efforts to prevent, identify, investigate and prosecute elder abuse. To that end, the Committee will continue its facilitation of financial exploitation detection and investigation trainings across the state and determine the most efficient ways to use the information provided at meetings to improve the quality of life of senior citizens in New York State. Three additional trainings have been scheduled, to be held in Jefferson County, Dutchess County and Niagara County, in the summer of 2020. Lifespan will once again instruct these trainings.

## Domestic Incident Reports (DIR) Involving Elderly Victims (Age 65 and Older), Upstate and Long Island, 2018

### TOTAL DIRs

- In 2018, law enforcement agencies in 57 Upstate and Long Island counties completed 7,590 DIRs involving elderly victims who were 65 years old or older.

### RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VICTIM AND SUSPECT

- In 42.3 percent (3,209) of the DIRs completed in 2018, a child was reported as victimizing a parent.
- Spousal or ex-spousal relationships accounted for 17 percent (1,292) of elderly victim incidents. Intimate partners or ex-intimate partner relationships accounted for 10.1 percent (768) of incidents.
- Other family members accounted for 23.3 percent (1,767) of suspects. The reports do not provide a specific breakdown of other family relationships.

### VICTIM AND SUSPECT DEMOGRAPHICS

- Nearly two-thirds (63.3%) of elderly victims were identified as female (4,808) and 35.9 percent of suspects identified were male (2,724). Sex of the victim or suspect was not identified in about 1 percent of the cases.
- More elderly victims ranged in age from 65 to 69, (42.8%) than any other age group.
- The median age of all victims was 71 years.

**Note:** All percentages are based upon totals that include missing values.

**Table 1. Domestic Incident Reports (DIR) Involving Elderly Victims (Age 65 and Older), Upstate and Long Island, 2018**

	Upstate and Long Island 2018	
	Number	Percent
<b>TOTAL ELDERLY INCIDENTS</b>	<b>7,590</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Suspect's Relationship to Victim</b>		
Spouse or Ex-Spouse	1,292	17.0
Intimate Partner or Former Intimate Partner	768	10.1
Parent	20	0.3
Child	3,209	42.3
Other Family	1,767	23.3
Other/Unknown	534	7.0
<b>Victim Gender</b>		
Male	2,724	35.9
Female	4,808	63.3
Not Reported	58	0.8
<b>Suspect Gender</b>		
Male	4,734	62.4
Female	2,755	36.3
Not Reported	101	1.3
<b>Victim Age Group</b>		
65 – 69	3,248	42.8
70 – 74	2,015	26.5
75 – 79	1,183	15.6
80 and over	1,144	15.1
Median Age: 71		
<b>Suspect Age Group</b>		
5 – 15	286	3.8
16 – 19	448	5.9
20 – 29	1,113	14.7
30 – 39	1,381	18.2
40 – 49	1,308	17.2
50 – 59	1,203	15.8
60 – 69	926	12.2
70 and over	760	10.0
Not Reported	165	2.2
Median Age: 43		

**Source:** Division of Criminal Justice Services DIR Repository. Preliminary data subject to change. Includes DIRs completed in 2018 and entered into the repository as of 5/31/19.

**Note:** Information previously provided on suspect/victim race/ethnicity, offenses committed, orders of protection, and the presence of the suspect at the scene is no longer available.

**Table 2. Number of Domestic Incident Reports (DIR)  
Involving Elderly Victims by County,  
Upstate and Long Island, 2018**

County	DIRs		County	DIRs	
	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Albany	260	3.4	Oneida	172	2.3
Allegany	12	0.2	Onondaga	177	2.3
Broome	217	2.9	Ontario	34	0.4
Cattaraugus	38	0.5	Orange	233	3.1
Cayuga	70	0.9	Orleans	13	0.2
Chautauqua	39	0.5	Oswego	72	0.9
Chemung	14	0.2	Otsego	53	0.7
Chenango	27	0.4	Putnam	32	0.4
Clinton	33	0.4	Rensselaer	135	1.8
Columbia	61	0.8	Rockland	192	2.5
Cortland	37	0.5	Saratoga	152	2.0
Delaware	49	0.6	Schenectady	206	2.7
Dutchess	196	2.6	Schoharie	10	0.1
Erie	414	5.5	Schuyler	5	0.1
Essex	15	0.2	Seneca	19	0.3
Franklin	30	0.4	St Lawrence	77	1.0
Fulton	15	0.2	Steuben	36	0.5
Genesee	31	0.4	Suffolk	1,573	20.7
Greene	51	0.7	Sullivan	31	0.4
Hamilton	0	0.0	Tioga	17	0.2
Herkimer	46	0.6	Tompkins	48	0.6
Jefferson	67	0.9	Ulster	108	1.4
Lewis	11	0.1	Warren	28	0.4
Livingston	45	0.6	Washington	31	0.4
Madison	64	0.8	Wayne	68	0.9
Monroe	509	6.7	Westchester	535	7.0
Montgomery	15	0.2	Wyoming	12	0.2
Nassau	1,048	13.8	Yates	20	0.3
Niagara	87	1.1	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>7,590</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source:** Division of Criminal Justice Services DIR Repository. Preliminary data subject to change. Includes DIRs completed in 2018 and entered into the repository as of 5/31/19.



## **Attachment A**

### **Enabling Legislation and Committee Composition**

Chapter III of the Laws of 1993 established the New York State Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to Elderly Persons.

As required by Section 844-b (2) (a) of New York State Executive Law, the Committee is composed of 16 members appointed by the DCJS Commissioner.

Committee membership must include: one representative of DCJS and the following state agencies: the New York State Police; Office of Victim Services; Office for the Aging; and the Office of Children and Family Services; two representatives each from the District Attorneys' Association of New York State; state Association of Chiefs of Police; and the New York State Sheriffs' Association; one representative each from the Attorney General's Office; the New York City Police Department; the New York State Crime Prevention Coalition; and two representatives from the Legislature, one appointed by the Senate President and the other by the Assembly Speaker. Additionally, a representative from the state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) serves on the Committee, replacing the position designated for the commissioner of the state's former Department of Social Services (as prescribed in Section 844-b).

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

- Consult with experts, service providers, and representative organizations engaged in the protection of the elderly.
- Recommend the development of "Triad" or related programs in New York State, if appropriate, to assist the elderly to avoid criminal victimization through coordinated efforts of State and local law enforcement agencies and organizations which provide services to the elderly.
- Recommend policies and programs, if appropriate, to assist law enforcement agencies to implement "Triad" and related programs, including training and prevention standards and technical assistance. Such recommendations may include:
  - Establishing a statewide and central clearinghouse of information and education materials.
  - Developing innovative community police programs for the elderly.
  - Assisting the Municipal Police Training Council in the development and delivery of training to law enforcement professionals involved in "Triad Programs," including, but not limited to: crimes against the elderly and the protection of elderly persons; police sensitivity to the needs of elderly persons as victims and witnesses; and social and human services.
  - Assisting State and local law enforcement officials and not-for-profit corporations and other organizations with respect to effective policies and responses to crimes against elderly persons.

- Promoting and facilitating cooperation among State agencies and local units of government.
- Advocating for effective services to protect elderly persons and elderly victims of crime.
- Evaluating the relationship between crimes against elderly persons and other problems confronting elderly persons, and making recommendations for effective policy response.
- Collecting statistical data and research.

## **Attachment B**

### **Committee Members** (as of December 2018)

#### **New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services**

Michael Wood, Deputy Commissioner and Co-Chair Office of Public Safety  
80 South Swan Street Albany, New York 12210

#### **New York State Police**

Patricia Groeber, First Deputy Superintendent and Co-Chair  
1220 Washington Avenue  
Building 22  
Albany, New York 12207

\*Steven James, First Deputy Superintendent and Co-Chair  
1220 Washington Avenue  
Building 22  
Albany, New York 12207

*\*First Deputy Superintendent James began serving upon Patricia Groeber's retirement*

#### **New York State Sheriffs' Association**

Phillip Povero, Sheriff  
Ontario County Sheriff's Office  
74 Ontario Street  
Canandaigua, New York 14424

W. Timothy Luce, Sheriff  
Seneca County Sheriff's Office  
6150 State Route 96  
Romulus, New York 14541

#### **New York State Association of Chiefs of Police**

Randy Diamond, Chief  
Hudson Falls Police Department  
218 Main Street  
Hudson Falls, New York 12839

F. Michael Catalano, Chief  
City of Cortland Police Department  
25 Court Street  
Cortland, New York 13045

#### **New York State Office of Victim Services**

Kathy Davidson  
Crime Victims Specialist II  
80 South Swan Street  
Albany, New York 12210

**New York State Office of Attorney General**

Gary S. Brown, Assistant Attorney General-In-Charge  
New York State Attorney General  
Westchester Regional Office  
44 South Broadway  
White Plains, NY 10601

**New York City Police Department**

Jessica Corey, Inspector  
Commanding Officer, Crime Prevention Division  
New York City Police Department  
1 Police Plaza  
New York, NY 10038

**New York State Senate**

Karen Nicolson, Esq.  
Center for Elder Law and Justice  
438 Main Street, Suite 1200  
Buffalo, NY 14202

**New York State Crime Prevention Coalition**

Kern Swoboda, Sergeant  
3353 McKinley Parkway  
Blasdell, NY 14219

**New York State Office for the Aging**

Greg Olsen, Acting Executive Deputy Director  
Two Empire State Plaza  
Albany, New York 12223

**New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance**

Denis Sheehan, SSP Policy Manager  
40 North Pearl Street  
Albany, New York 12243

**New York State Assembly**

Julie DeLeon, Assistant District Attorney Deputy Bureau Chief  
Bronx District Attorney's Office  
198 E. 161<sup>st</sup> Street  
Bronx, NY 10451

**New York State Office of Children and Family Services**

Alan Lawitz, Director, Bureau of Adult Services  
52 Washington Street  
Rensselaer, New York 12144-2796

**New York State District Attorneys' Association**

Kristen Kane, Assistant District Attorney  
Chief, Elder Fraud Unit  
Queens County District Attorney's Office  
125-01 Queens Boulevard  
Kew Gardens, New York 11415

Candace K. Vogel, Assistant District Attorney  
Special Investigations/Prosecution Bureau  
Erie County District Attorney's Office  
25 Delaware Avenue Buffalo, New York 14202



The NYS Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to Elderly Persons Law Enforcement Toolkit is designed to provide guidance, investigative tools, and resources to law enforcement officers in identifying and responding to elder abuse.

In New York State elder abuse is considered to be any type abuse (physical, sexual, emotional, neglect or financial exploitation) of a vulnerable older adult and may be perpetrated either by persons known to the victim, or by strangers. One out of 10 people ages 60 and older who live at home experience some form of elder abuse in their later years, however due to the multidimensional aspects of their abuse it is often difficult for law enforcement to detect and act accordingly. The information provided below will assist law enforcement with identifying, investigating and preventing elder abuse.

### **Forms of Elder Abuse**

Older adults may experience different forms of abuse such as physical, sexual, emotional, financial or neglect by self or others. A complete Elder Abuse Guide for Law Enforcement can be found online by clicking [here](#) to assist officers with their understanding and initial response to elder abuse. Additional resources, such as sample protocols for responding to elder abuse and informational brochures on elder abuse can be downloaded [here](#).

### **Investigations**

Law enforcement plays a crucial role in recognizing and investigating cases of elder abuse. To assist officers with their information gathering and investigation, a variety of resources including investigative checklists for the initial response and evidence gathering which are accessible by clicking [here](#). Additional information including an overview of power of attorney law is also available.

### **Legal Resources**

As part of an ongoing Elder Abuse investigation it is important to law enforcement to be aware of relevant case law and appropriate legal charges, if applicable. Please click [here](#) for a listing of legal resources and related family offenses. Penal law statutes specific to New York in relation to elder abuse can be reviewed by clicking this [link](#).

### **Training**

Training opportunities and resources are available for law enforcement on issues involving older persons including roll call videos, online trainings and elder abuse training manuals. Training opportunities are available by clicking the following [link](#).

### **Community Resources**

When addressing elder abuse in the community, one of the best ways to combat abuse is to educate the older community on prevention strategies. Law enforcement resources for the community such as informational brochures on scams, elder abuse or financial exploitation and other documents suitable for dissemination can be found [here](#).



### **Additional Information and Resources**

The information below provides links to agencies or resources available to law enforcement to assist victims or family members involved in elder abuse cases.

#### **NYS Missing Persons Clearinghouse – <http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/missing/who-we-are.html>**

- The Missing Persons Clearinghouse is staffed by professionals with extensive experience handling missing person cases. They support law enforcement officials investigating cases involving children under 21, college students and vulnerable adults, including those with Alzheimer's and dementia who have gone missing.

#### **NYS Office for the Aging - <https://aging.ny.gov/>**

- The New York State Office for the Aging's (NYSOFA's) home and community-based programs provide older persons access to a well-planned, coordinated package of in-home and other supportive services designed to support and supplement informal care.

#### **NYS Office of Child and Family Services Bureau of Adult Services - <https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/bureau-of-adult-services.asp>**

- The New York State Office of Children and Family Services, through the Bureau of Adult Services, is responsible for the oversight of the Adult Protective Services and the Family Type Home for Adults programs. Contact information for local Adult Protective Services offices is available at the following link <https://www.ocfs.ny.gov/main/psa/local-APS-intake.asp> A Family-Type Home for Adults (FTHA) is an adult care facility in which an operator provides residential care, personal care and/or supervision services, to four or fewer adults who are not related to the operator. Additional information on FTHA's is available here <https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/ftha/> .

#### **NYS Office of Victim Services - <https://ovs.ny.gov/>**

- New York State Office of Victim Services can provide compensation to innocent victims of crime for their out-of-pocket losses associated with the crime and may be able to assist with medical bills and counseling expenses; burial and funeral costs; lost wages; and other types of assistance.

#### **NY Connects - <https://www.nyconnects.ny.gov/>**

- NY Connects provides free, unbiased information about long term services and supports in New York State for people of all ages or with any type of disability.

#### **US Department of Justice – Elder Justice Initiative - <https://www.justice.gov/elderjustice>**

- The mission of the Elder Justice Initiative is to support and coordinate the Department's enforcement and programmatic efforts to combat elder abuse, neglect and financial fraud and scams that target our nation's seniors.

#### **Project Lifesaver - <https://projectlifesaver.org/>**

- Project Lifesaver International is a non-profit organization that provides law enforcement and caregivers with technology designed to protect, and when necessary, quickly locate individuals with cognitive disorders who are prone to the life-threatening behavior of wandering. The New York State Missing Persons Clearinghouse has partnered with Project Lifesaver to provide this tracking technology to law enforcement agencies throughout the state. A list of participating agencies is available [here](#).

#### **New York State District Attorneys**

- The local district attorney's office is available to assist law enforcement with the prosecution of elder abuse cases. Click the link [here](#) for county district attorney contact information.