



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF SHASTA

Stephen S. Carlton
District Attorney

June 15, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Chief Deputy District Attorney: Stephanie Bridgett
(530)245-6310

**Shasta County District Attorney's Office Commemorates
World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) this June 15th 2015**

Local effort to raise awareness about elder abuse and neglect in our community
Redding, CA, June 15, 2015– Shasta County District Attorney's Office is recognizing World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD). This year's theme is One person. One action. One Nation. United against elder abuse.

Did you know that every day 10,000 people turn 65 in the US alone? That trend is going to continue for nearly the next 20 years. Our demographics are shifting, and we will soon have more elder people in the US than ever before. At the same time that the population is growing, we know that a startling number of elders face abusive conditions. Every year an estimated 5 million, or 1 in 10, older Americans are victims of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation. And that's only part of the picture: Experts believe that for every case of elder abuse or neglect reported, as many as 23.5 cases go unreported.

Elder abuse has many facets ranging from emotional abuse and financial abuse to physical abuse that can result in premature death. Locally, in 2014, Shasta County had a total of 120 elder abuse cases reported to law enforcement. Of those reports, 31 cases were generated for criminal action. So far in 2015 our office has filed 17 elder abuse cases, including 1 homicide case. “It’s a serious crime, taken seriously and aggressively prosecuted by our office,” says Chief Deputy District Attorney Stephanie Bridgett.

WEAAD serves as a call-to-action for individuals, organizations, and communities to raise awareness about abuse, neglect, and exploitation of elders. The Shasta County District Attorney’s Office and Crime Victim Assistance Center help elder victims with resources and education about their rights. Chief Deputy District Attorney Bridgett says, “our office will do everything it can to give elder victims a sense of security back by assisting them through the court process and providing them the resources they need during a difficult time in their lives.” Services available to elder victims through the Crime Victims Assistance Center include resource and referral assistance, counseling resources, assistance with medical bill as a result of crime related injuries, relocation assistance, court information and escort, crime prevention education and many more.

The Shasta County District Attorney’s Office Fraud Unit assists elder victims with financial fraud, scam phone calls, contractor fraud, corporations and businesses targeting elders, real estate fraud, and trust fund fraud. The Fraud Unit provides public education, referrals and in some instances can pursue civil or criminal action.

If you are interested in more information about services available to elder victims or would like a presentation about fraud prevention, intervention and victim support please contact Shasta County District Attorney’s Office-Crime Victim Assistance Center at 530-225-5220.
