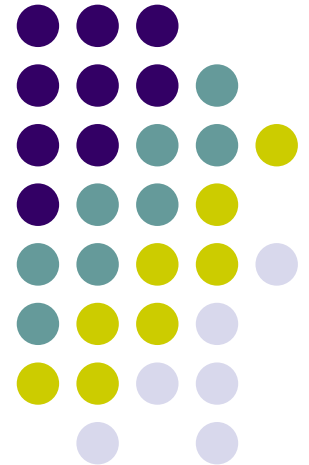
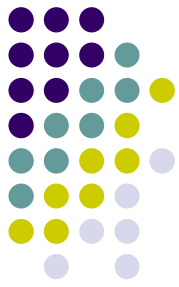


CHILD & FAMILY ABUSE BUREAU ELDER ABUSE UNIT

WAYNE COUNTY
PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE
KYM L. WORTHY



OUR POPULATION



- 2003 – 35.9 Million citizens 65 or older
- 2010 to 2030 - 72 million are projected

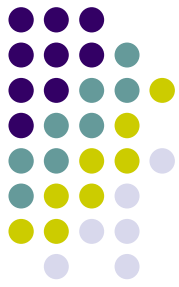


CASE GROWTH

- As the population grows –
- So will the caseload



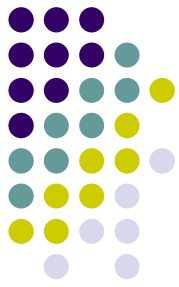
KYM WORTHY'S RESPONSE



- ELDER ABUSE UNIT
- COVERING WAYNE COUNTY
- COMMITMENT TO:
 - PROTECT THE ELDERLY
 - PROTECT THE VULNERABLE ADULT



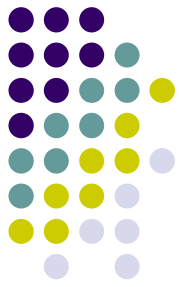
THE ELDER ABUSE UNIT



- 3 Assistant Prosecutors
- 1 Elder Abuse Victim Advocate
- Specialized Training
- 200 plus felony cases per year



TYPES OF CRIMES

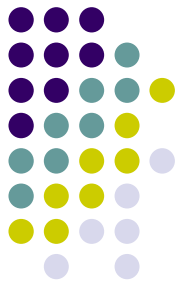


- When the victim is 65 years old or older,
- And the crime is a felony,
- We prosecute...



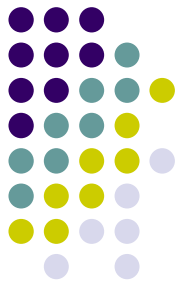
WE PROSECUTE...

- Crimes of assault

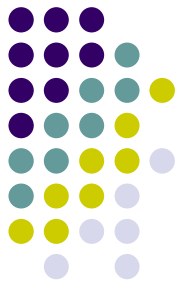


WE PROSECUTE...

- Crimes of Home Invasion



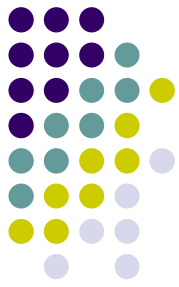
WE PROSECUTE....



- Crimes of Arson



WE PROSECUTE...



- Criminal Sexual Conduct



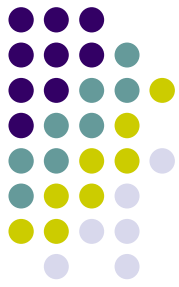
WE PROSECUTE...



- Fraud & Financial Exploitation

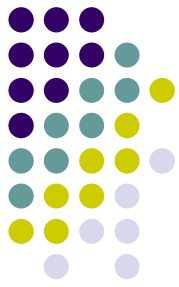


“VULNERABLE ADULTS”

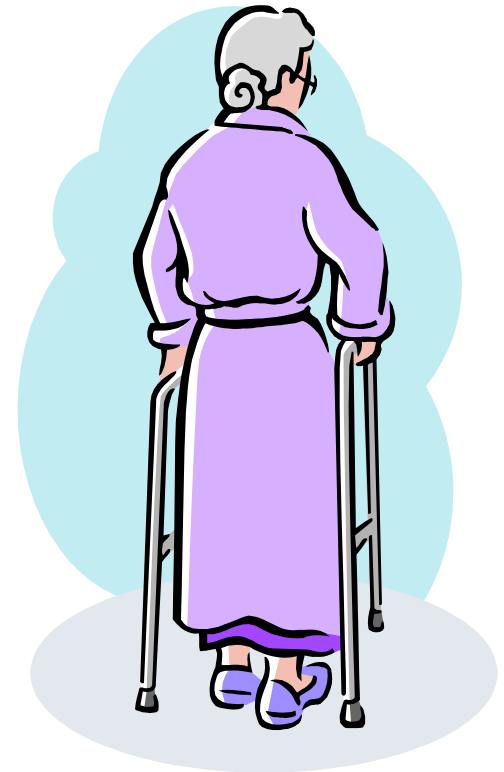


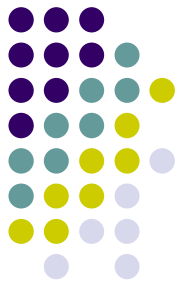
- Defined by statute: MCLA 750.145m
- Definition:
 - An individual, age 18 or older, who, because of age, developmental disability, mental illness or physical disability, requires supervision or personal care, or lacks the personal & social skills required to live independently.

TYPES OF CRIMES AGAINST VULNERABLE ADULTS



- Nursing Home Assaults
- Other institutional assaults
- Fraud & Financial Exploitation
- CSC





FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

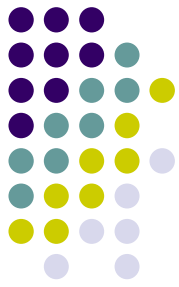
- What is it?
- Any illegal use of an elder's or vulnerable adult's resources for a selfish or criminal gain.



FRIGHTENING STATISTICS



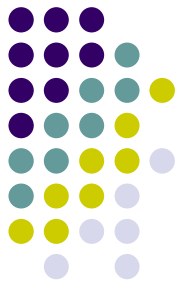
- 5 million elder victims of financial fraud each year
- Last decade – 150% increase in elder abuse investigations in the U.S.
- Technological advances gives criminals more opportunity to victimize.
- 2006 – 565,747 reports of elder & vulnerable adult abuse nationwide



NON REPORTING REASONS

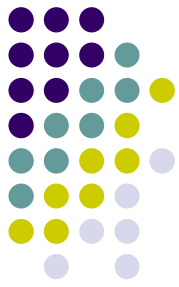
- Humiliation
- Fear of retaliation
- Fear of being sent to a nursing home
- Misguided love
- Lack of knowledge

TYPES OF FINANCIAL FRAUD



- Home improvement scams
- Mortgage fraud
- Nigerian or other letter scams
- Lotto or sweepstakes
- Fake charity scams
- Pigeon drop
- Inheritance scam
- Bank fraud investigator scam
- Misuse of credit cards or power of attorney
- Embezzlement of a vulnerable adult

WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?



- 75% of all victims are WOMEN



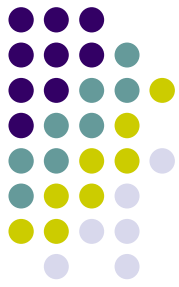


WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?

- 80% of victims – income under \$10,000.00



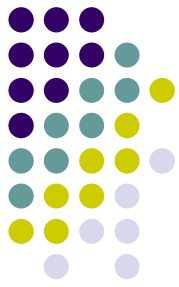
WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?



- Average age of abused seniors is 75



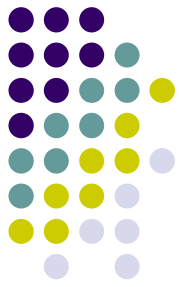
SIGNS OF FINANCIAL ABUSE



- Frequent & expensive gifts from elder to the caregiver.
- Frequent checks made to cash



SIGNS OF FINANCIAL ABUSE



- Unexplained bank withdrawals
- Caregiver's name added to accounts
- Unexplained transfers of assets
- Check numbers out of order
- Elder's signature on loans
- Personal belongings, papers or credit cards missing

BEHAVIORAL SIGNS OF EXPLOITATION BY VICTIM



- Fear
- Anxiety
- Isolation & withdrawal
- Depression
- Contradictory statements
- Confusion or disorientation

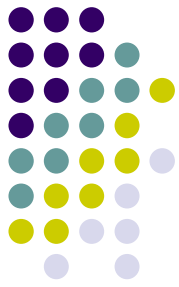


BEHAVIORAL SIGNS OF EXPLOITATION BY CAREGIVER



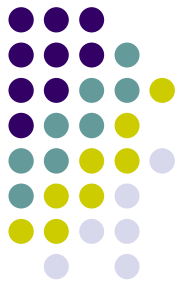
- Prevents contact with visitors
- Exhibits aggressive behavior toward elder
- History of substance abuse
- Provides conflicting accounts of incidents
- Lack of affection toward the elder





EFFECTS ON VICTIMS

- Declining physical & emotional well being
- Depression
- Reliance on public benefits
- Even death



WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Reporting Financial Exploitation or other abuse:

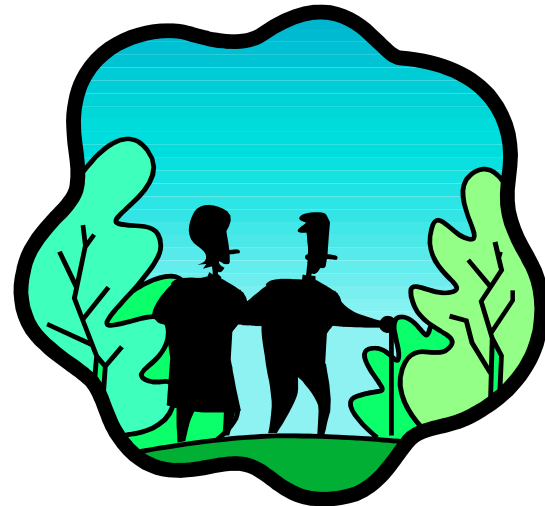
CONTACT:

- Your local Police Department
- Adult Protective Services
- 1-877-963-6006

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS

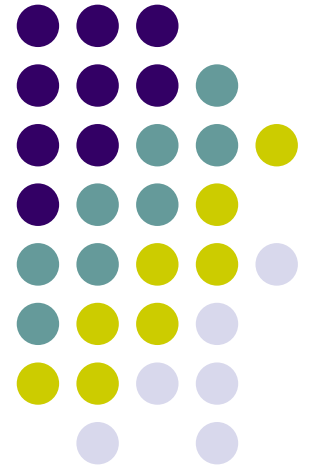


- Michigan Protection & Advocacy:
 - 1-800-288-5923
- Legal hotline For Michigan Senior
 - 1-800-347-5297



THANK YOU

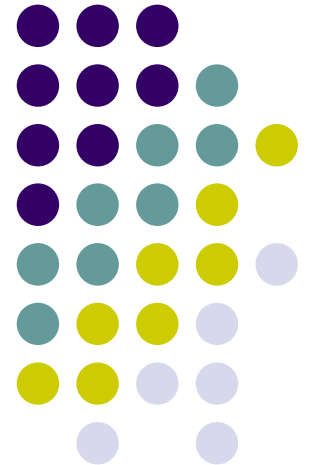
THOMAS R. WENZEL
PRINCIPAL ATTORNEY
PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE





CHILD & FAMILY ABUSE BUREAU ELDER ABUSE UNIT

WAYNE COUNTY
PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE
KYM L. WORTHY



OUR POPULATION



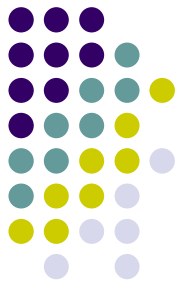
- In 2003, 25.9 million people in our nation were 65 years or older
- Between 2010 and 2030, census Bureau projections indicate that elderly persons will number approximately 72 million

CASE GROWTH & Kym's Response – 2 slides



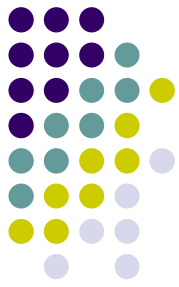
- As the number of elderly population grows, so will the caseload
- In recognition of these statistics and based upon her courage and commitment in protecting the elderly and the vulnerable, Kym Worthy created an Elder Abuse Unit in Wayne County in 2003

ELDER ABUSE – OUR UNIT



- 3 assistant prosecutors
- 1 Elder Abuse Victim Advocate
- Specialized training
- 200 plus, felony cases per year

TYPES OF CRIMES –next 6 slides



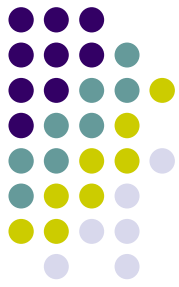
- When the victim is 65 years or older,
- And the crime is a felony, we prosecute:
 - Crimes of assault
 - Home invasion
 - Arson
 - Criminal sexual conduct
 - Fraud & financial exploitation



VULNERABLE ADULTS

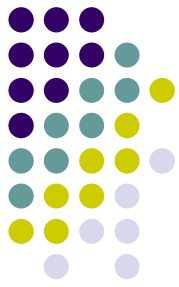
- In addition to Elder Abuse, we also prosecute felonies involving “Vulnerable Adults”.
- Vulnerable adult is defined by statute: MCLA 750.145m, as:
 - An individual, age 18 or older, who because of age, developmental disability, mental illness or physical disability, requires supervision or personal care, or lacks the personal & social skills required to live independently

TYPES OF CRIMES AGAINST VULNERABLE ADULTS



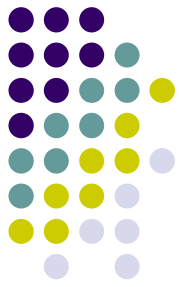
- Serious assaults in nursing homes or other institutional settings
- Criminal sexual conduct cases
- Fraud & financial exploitation

FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION



- What is financial exploitation?
- It is any illegal use of an elder's or vulnerable adult's resources for a selfish or criminal gain

FRIGHTENING STATISTICS – cont'd to next slide



- There are at least 5 million elder victims of financial fraud each year.
- In the last decade, the number of elder abuse reports investigated across the nation has increased by more than 150%, - NATIONAL CENTER ON ELDER ABUSE
- The advance in technology has provided even more opportunity for criminals



Continuation of same slide

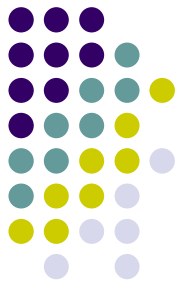
- A national survey of state adult protective services released in 2006 turned up 565,747 reports of abuse of elders and vulnerable adults
- Many of the experts believe that this survey revealed only the tip of the iceberg
- According to the yardstick developed by those researchers, only one incident in 14 becomes known

NON REPORTING REASONS



- There are a number of reasons for these incidents not to be reported:
 - Humiliation
 - Fear of retaliation
 - Fear of being sent to a nursing home
 - Misguided love
 - Lack of awareness & knowledge

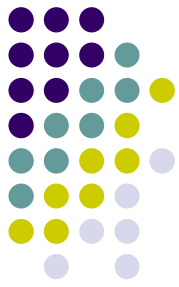
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- Pigeon drop
- Inheritance scam
- Bank fraud investigator scam
- Misuse of credit cards or power of attorney
- Embezzlement of a vulnerable adult

WHO ARE THE VICTIMS

(next 3 slides)



- 75% of all victims are women
- 80% of all victims have incomes under \$10,000 per year
- The average age of abused seniors is 75

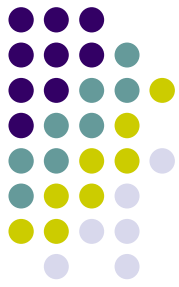
SIGNS OF FINANCIAL ABUSE

(next 2 slides)



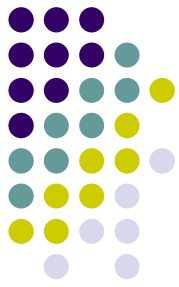
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- Frequent checks made to cash
- Unexplained bank withdrawals
- Caregiver's name added to accounts
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BEHAVIORAL SIGNS OF EXPLOITATION BY VICTIM

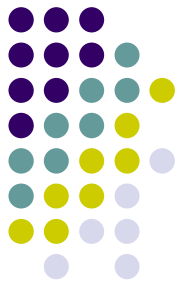


- Fear
- Anxiety
- Isolation & withdrawal
- Depression
- Contradictory statements
- Confusion or disorientation

BEHAVIORAL SIGNS OF EXPLOITATION BY CAREGIVER



- Prevents elder from speaking to, or seeing, visitors
- Aggressive behavior towards the elder
- History of substance abuse
- Conflicting accounts of incidents
- Lack of affection toward the elder



EFFECTS ON VICTIMS

- Without financial resources, seniors can suffer from declining physical and emotional well being, as well as depression, reliance on public benefits and even death.
- The bottom line in financial cases, if it sounds too good to be true, then chances are that it is not legitimate



WHAT CAN BE DONE?

- Reporting financial exploitation or other abuse:
 - CONTACT
 - Your local police department
 - or
 - Adult protective services at 1-877-963-6006

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS



- There are other important numbers in this area:
- Michigan protection & Advocacy:
 - 1-800-288-5923
- Legal hotline for Michigan Seniors
 - 1-800-347-5297