

# Common Forms of Abuse

**Cuts, bruises and broken bones are not the only signs of possible abuse. Abuse comes in many forms and all pose a threat to the health and safety of those we support.**

## **Physical Abuse**

Assault or the threat of an assault (e.g., hitting, slapping, or burning) that causes or could cause physical injury or fear of physical injury.

## **Sexual Abuse**

Unwanted touching of a person's sexual body parts. Lack of consent is the defining feature. The power imbalance between a person with a disability and their care provider makes it impossible for consent to be given.

Sexual Abuse is also the denial of a person's right to engage in consenting sexual behaviour.

## **Financial Abuse**

The misuse, misappropriation or restriction of an individual's financial assets for personal gain.

## **Verbal Abuse**

The use of demeaning language and name calling directed towards an individual. This includes any negative comments on someone's disability or their appearance.

## **Emotional or Psychological Abuse**

Emotional or psychological abuse is the attempt to control someone by subjecting them to constant criticism, insults, threats, humiliation or intimidation.

## **Harassment & Sexual Harassment**

Harassment is any comment, conduct, or gesture that is insulting, intimidating, humiliating, malicious, degrading, offensive, or discriminatory directed toward an individual or group of individuals.

Sexual harassment is any comment or conduct of a sexual nature with the intent of causing offence or humiliation.

## **Neglect**

Neglect is the failure to provide a person with the support and assistance that is required for their health, safety or well-being. This includes inaction that jeopardizes the health or safety of the person.

## **Exploitation**

Exploitation is any attempt to trick or manipulate a person for personal benefit. This includes persuasion to do things that are illegal or not in the individual's best interest.

