



## OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### WELD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCLAIM JUNE 15 AS ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

WELD COUNTY, CO – The Weld County Board of Commissioners proclaim June 15, 2016, as Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The day is dedicated to raising awareness and promoting a better understanding of the abuse and neglect older persons face.



*Commissioner Sean Conway, Commissioner Steve Moreno and Commissioner Julie Cozad present the Elder Abuse Awareness Day proclamation to members of the Area Agency on Aging staff as well as District Attorney Michael Rourke.*

“Elder abuse can happen to anyone by a spouse, family member, trusted professional or an opportunistic stranger,” said Commissioner Julie Cozad, representative on the Colorado Commission on Aging. “As a community, we need to pay more attention to the warning signs such as physical abuse, neglect in basic care, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and financial abuse or exploitation.”

Every day 10,000 people turn 65 in the United States, and that trend is going to continue for nearly the next 20 years. The United States will soon have more elder citizens than ever before, which will ultimately increase the chance of abuse and neglect. According to the National Center for Elder Abuse, every year approximately

5 million, or one in ten, older American's experience some type of abuse, but only one in 23 cases are reported.

“The Board would like to thank the Weld County Area Agency on Aging Adult Protection team and the District Attorney's Office for working each day to protect our elders,” said Commissioner Steve Moreno, Commissioner Coordinator for the Department of Human Services (DHS). “Everyone plays a role in the prevention of elder abuse. If you see or hear something, please report it.”

Although it is mandated by law that professionals report the mistreatment of at-risk elders to law enforcement, DHS encourages anyone concerned about the safety and well-being of any elder person to notify either law enforcement by calling 9-1-1 or filing a report with the Adult Protection Hotline by calling 970-346-7676.

For more information about elder care in Weld County, visit the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) tab on the Department of Human Services web page at [www.weldgov.com](http://www.weldgov.com).

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