



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, older New Yorkers are respected members of our communities and one of our most valued sources of lifelong knowledge, real-world experiences, and enduring lessons from which we can learn and improve ourselves; as beneficiaries of their vast wisdom and insight, we all are indebted to our cherished elders, who deserve to live safely with independence, dignity, and full respect for their rights; and

Whereas, sadly, elder abuse is an ever-increasing problem statewide, with referrals to Adult Protective Services (APS) rising every year, and New York State is responding to this problem in a variety of ways across multiple state agencies; and

Whereas, the New York State Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS) applauds the efforts of APS workers statewide for continuously supporting, servicing, and protecting New York State's vulnerable adults, and promoting their ability to remain self-sufficient and safe throughout the Covid-19 pandemic; and

Whereas, the OCFS Human Services Call Center has continued to support extended hours of operation for the Adult Services Helpline, with a dedicated number 1-844-697-3505, to assist the public and professionals in reaching the appropriate local APS office to report elder abuse; and

Whereas, OCFS continues to support the implementation and use of the Financial Exploitation Investigation Suite of Tools, which helps enhance the quality of client interviews and helps APS staff collect the documentation and financial records to assist them and their partners in investigating suspected financial exploitation of older New Yorkers, in conjunction with a forensic accountant; additionally, OCFS and the New York State Department of Financial Services will continue to train financial professionals to recognize and respond to elder financial abuse; and

Whereas, the New York State Office for the Aging has increased the number of enhanced multi-disciplinary teams statewide to address the problem of elder abuse, bringing together professionals from various disciplines to provide an effective and efficient means of addressing complex cases of abuse of older adults (aged 60 and older); the enhancement comes with access to forensic accountants, geriatric psychiatrists (or other qualified mental health professionals), and community legal services; and

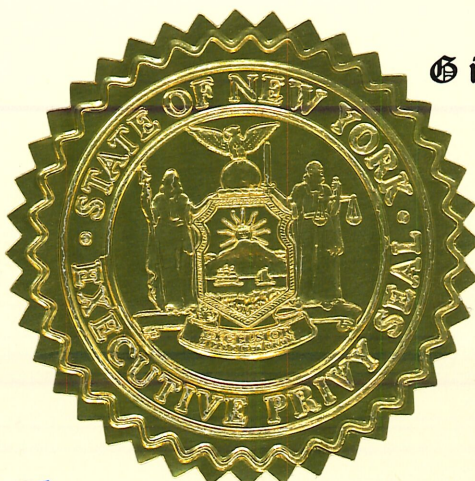
Whereas, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was launched on June 15, 2006 by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and World Health Organization at the United Nations, and was officially recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2011; as a global, social, and health and human rights issue that affects millions of older adults around the world, elder abuse deserves the attention of the international community; and

Whereas, a significant measure of a society is how it treats its elderly population, and it is our collective responsibility to provide for safe and secure communities and living environments for older adults, and to report any suspected incidents of abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation; New York State recognizes that it is important for people to become more informed about elder abuse and ways to identify, prevent, and address this issue, and we join to support the goals of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day toward achieving this end;

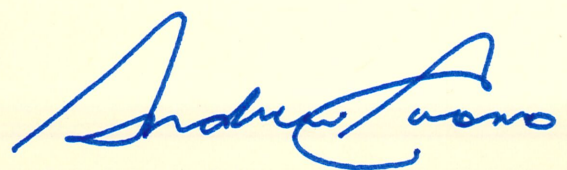
Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim June 15, 2021 as

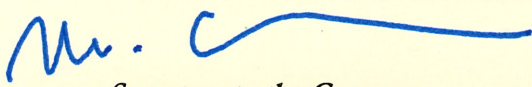
ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

in the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this tenth day
of June in the year two thousand twenty-one.


Governor


Secretary to the Governor
Melissa DeRosa