

# Elder Abuse in Indian Country

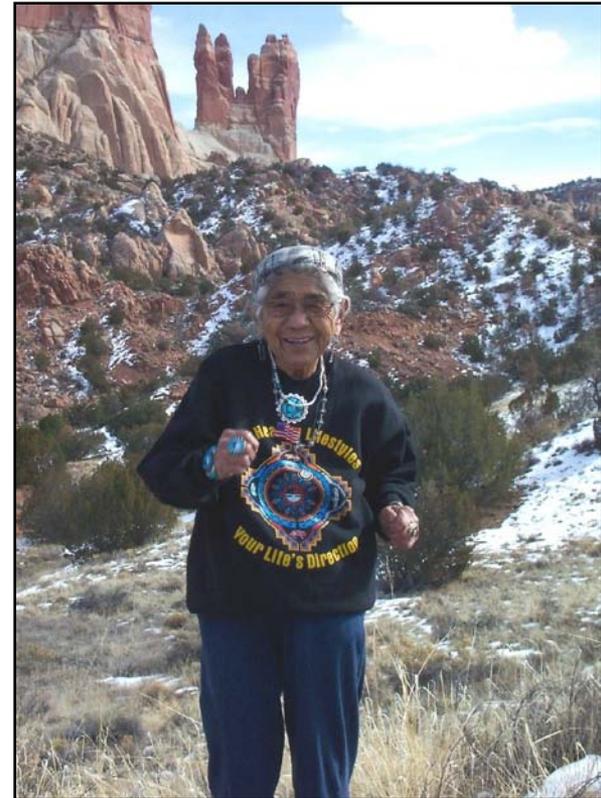
Yvonne Jackson, PhD  
Administration on Aging

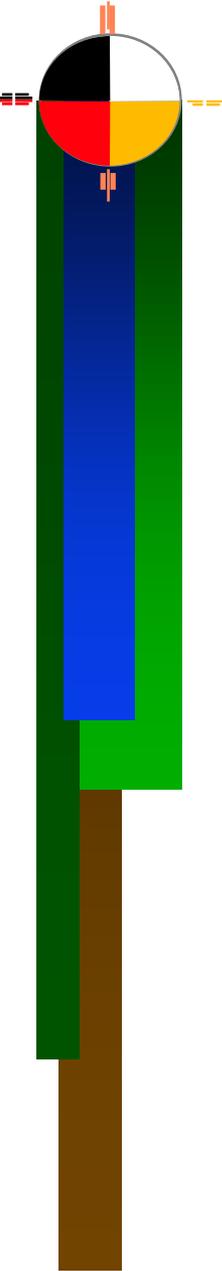
Interdepartmental Tribal Justice, Safety, and  
Wellness Session 11

June 16-18, 2010  
Rapid City, SD

# Traditional Status of Elders

- Honor
- Respect
- Custodians of Tribal history, culture, and tradition



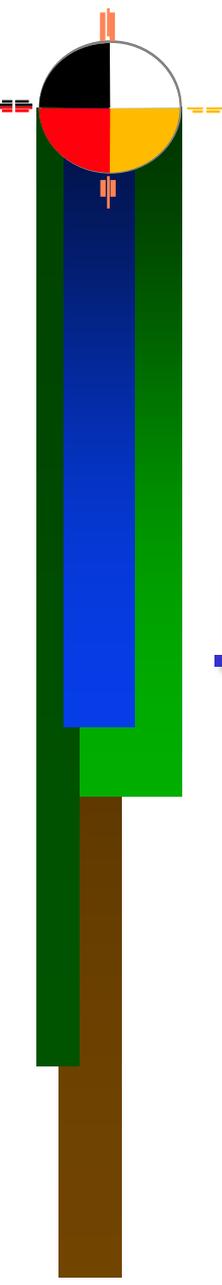


# Contemporary Reality

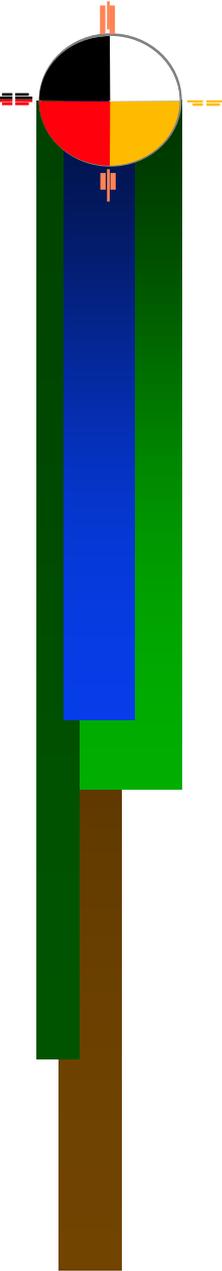
- **Changes leading to increasing the risk of elder abuse and neglect.**
  - **Loss of traditional lifestyle**
  - **Changes to the traditional family unit**
  - **Poor social and economic conditions**
  - **High rates of violence in many communities**

# Outline

- **Elder abuse issues from 3 points of view:**
  - **Tribal Judges**
  - **Senior Service Program Directors**
  - **Tribal Elders**
- **Examples of AoA activities to address elder abuse in Tribal communities**

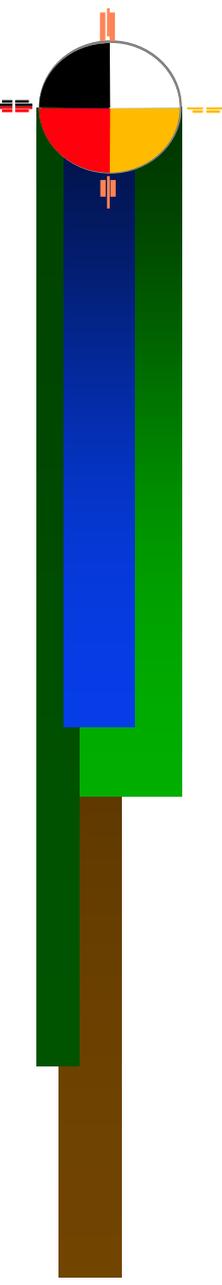


**Elder Abuse in Indian Country**  
**Today – How do Elders, Service**  
**Providers, and the Legal System**  
**Define It?**



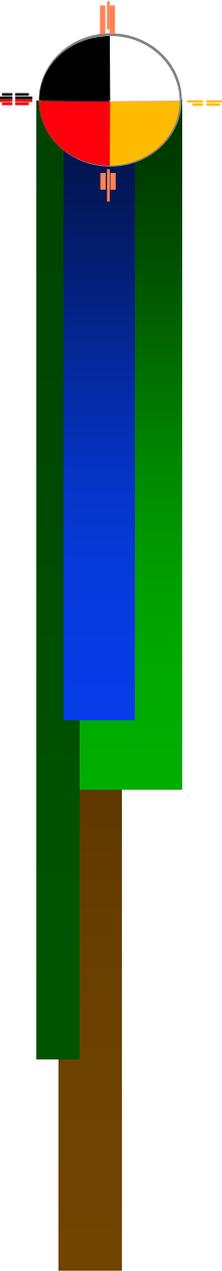
# Elder Abuse Survey

- Tribal Judges
- Title VI (Senior Program) Directors
- Tribal Elders



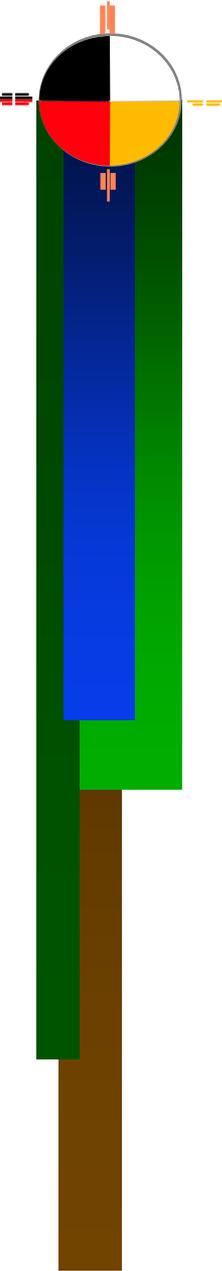
# Questionnaire

- **Core questions:**
  - Define elder abuse and neglect
  - What are the issues in your community?
  - Share an example that you have seen or heard about in your community.



# Questionnaire

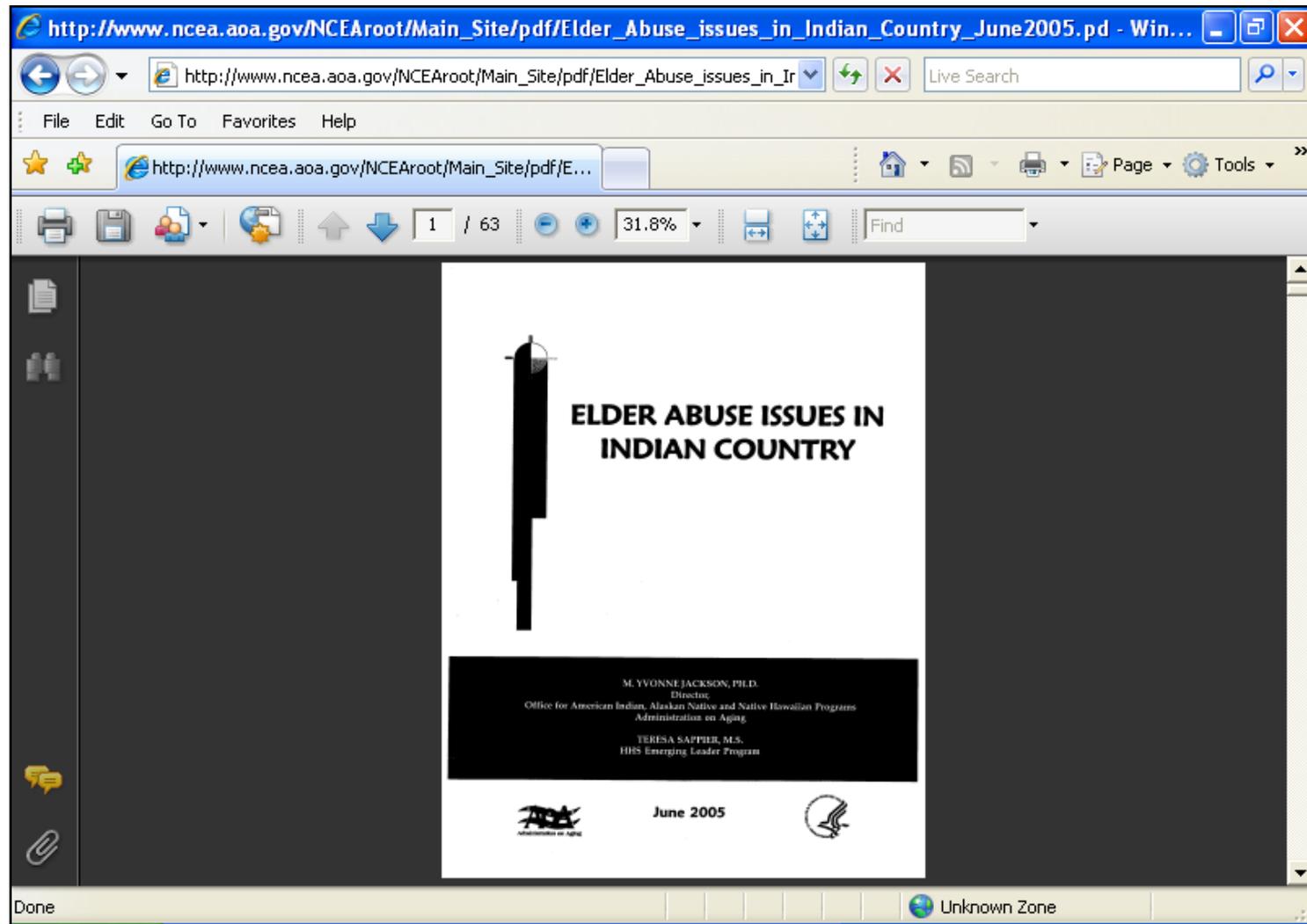
- **Tribal Judges:**
  - Identify current legal practices in your community to address elder abuse and neglect.
  - Identify any cultural/customary law practices being used.
  - Identify prevention/intervention systems for your community.

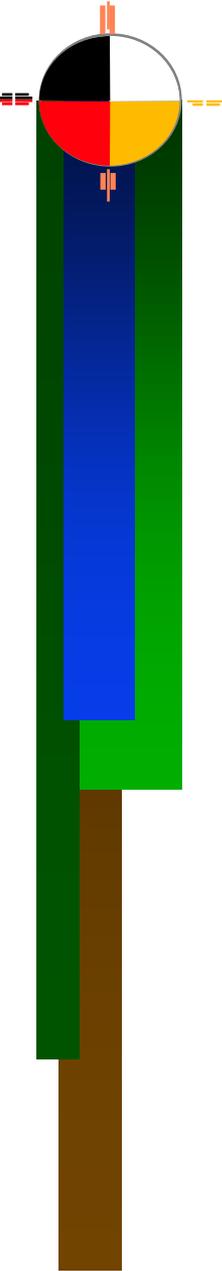


# Questionnaire

- **Title VI Directors and Tribal Elders:**
  - What traditional cultural practices are used to resolve elder abuse?
  - What can you do to work with the Tribal judicial system?
  - How can this survey information and the AoA help you reduce elder abuse in your community?

[http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/NCEAroot/Main\\_Site/pdf/Elder\\_Abuse\\_issues\\_in\\_Indian\\_Country\\_June2005.pdf](http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/NCEAroot/Main_Site/pdf/Elder_Abuse_issues_in_Indian_Country_June2005.pdf)

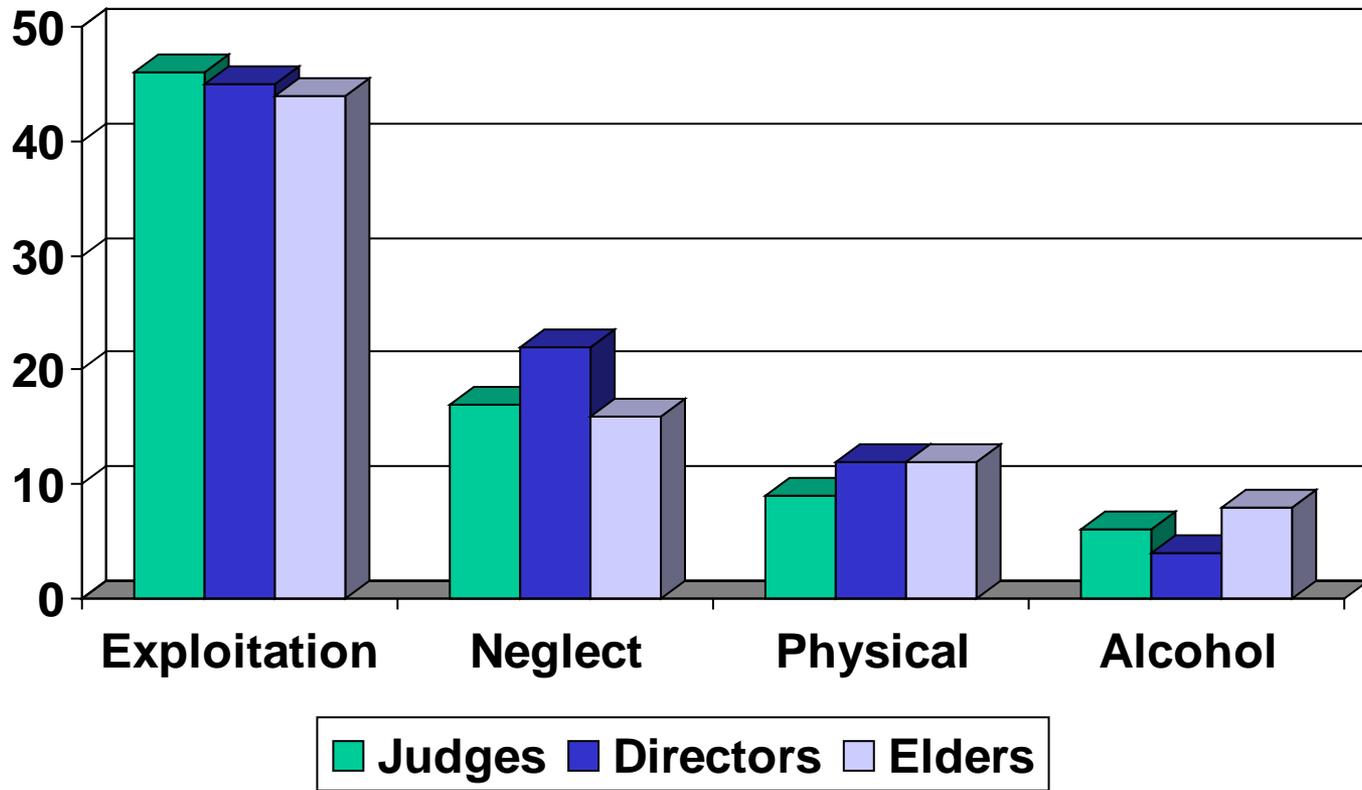




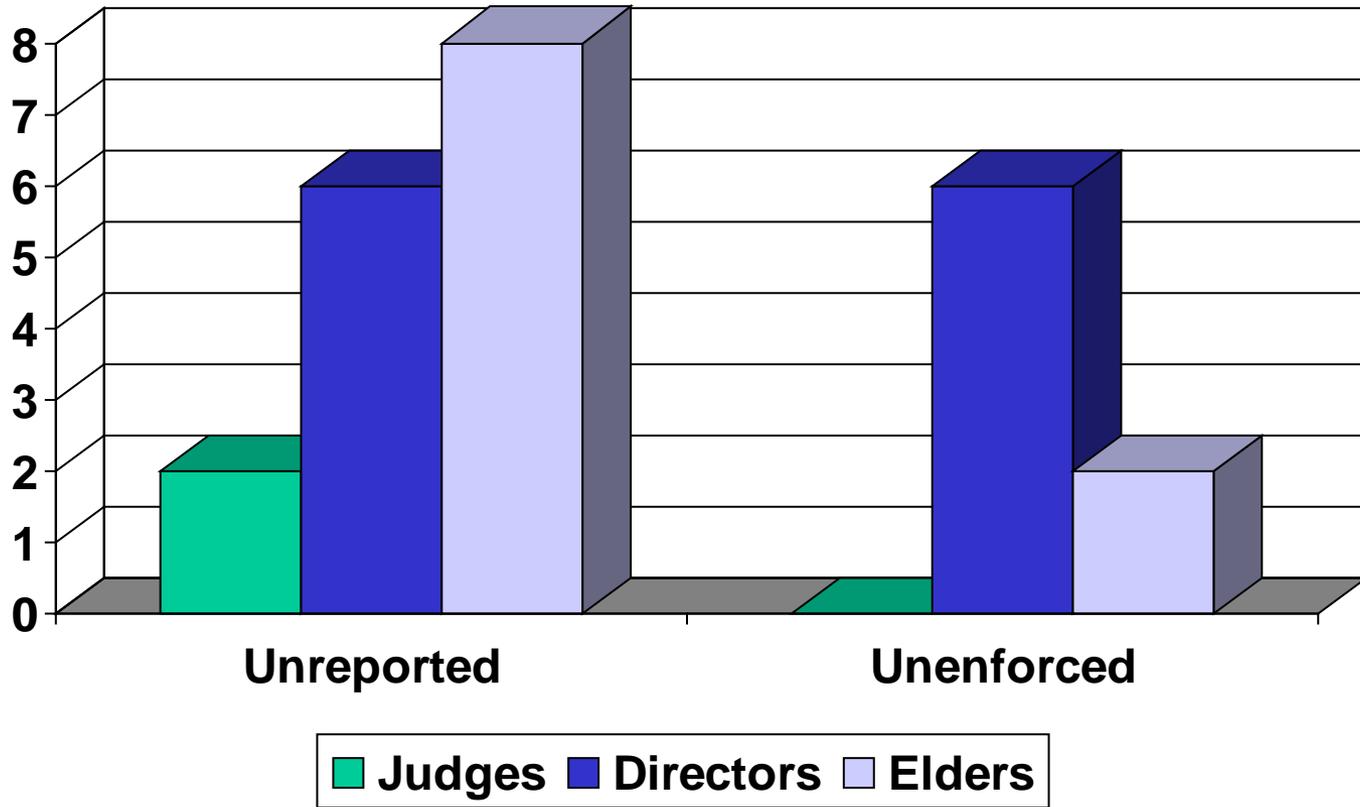
# Definitions of Elder Abuse

- **All three groups:**
  - Physical abuse
  - Emotional abuse
  - Neglect
  - Exploitation
- **Tribal Judges and Title VI Directors:**
  - Sexual abuse

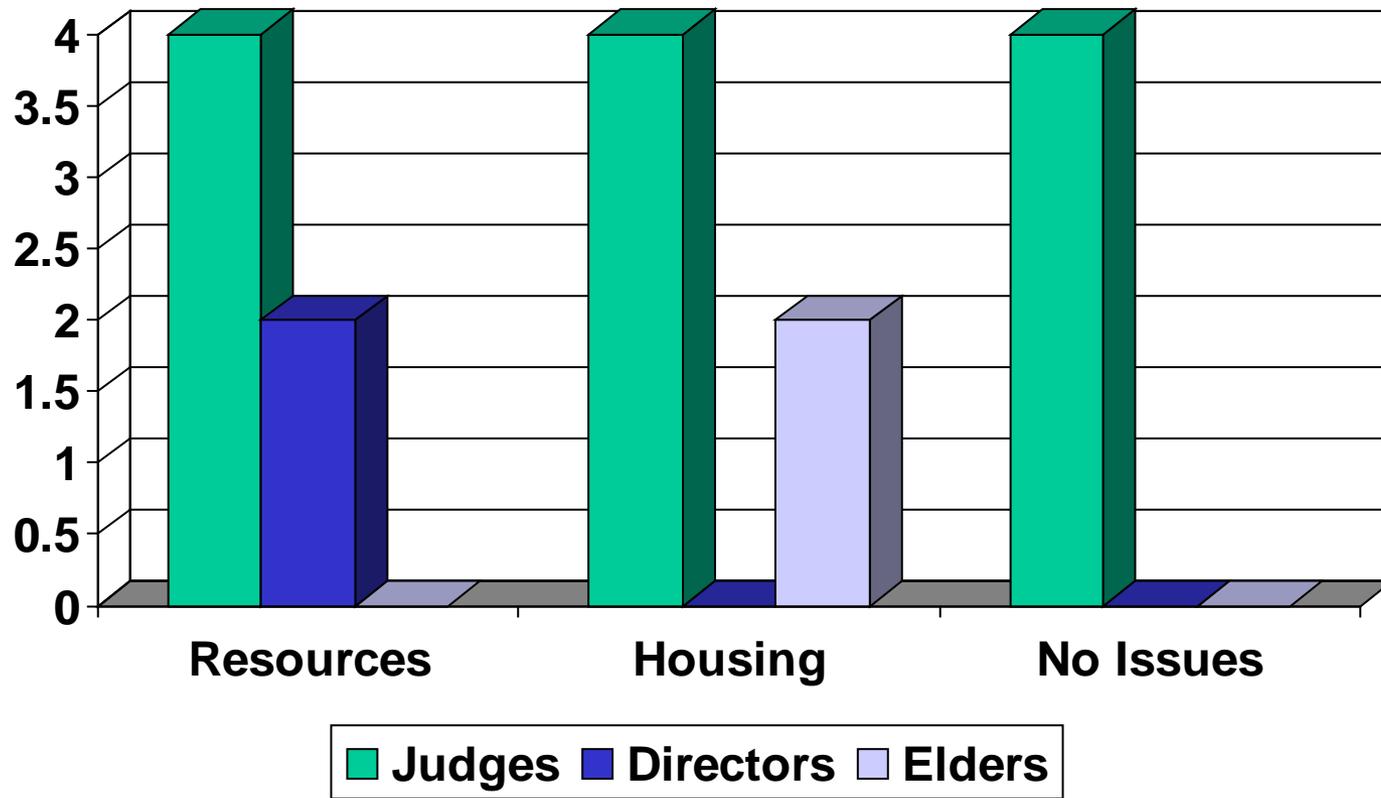
# Elder Abuse Issues

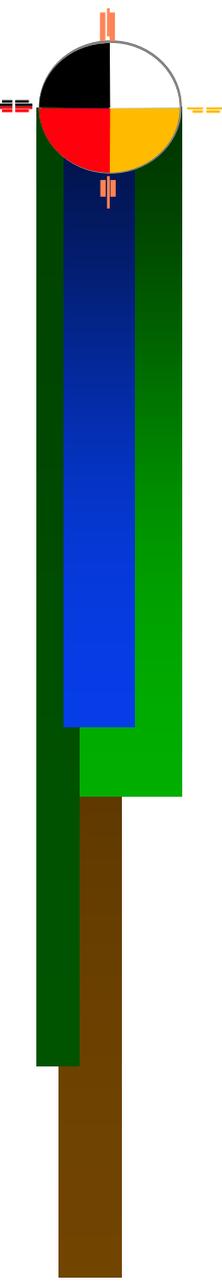


# Elder Abuse Issues



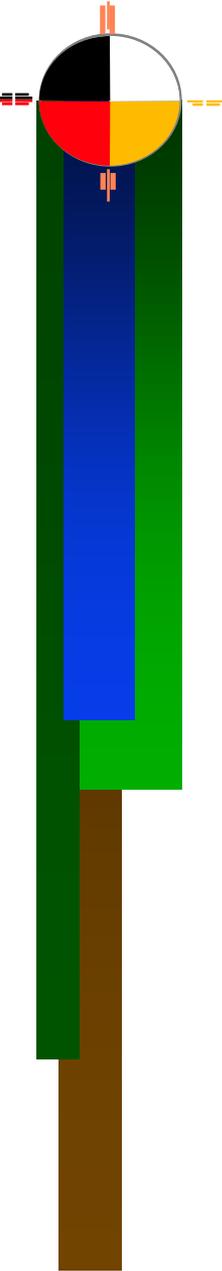
# Elder Abuse Issues





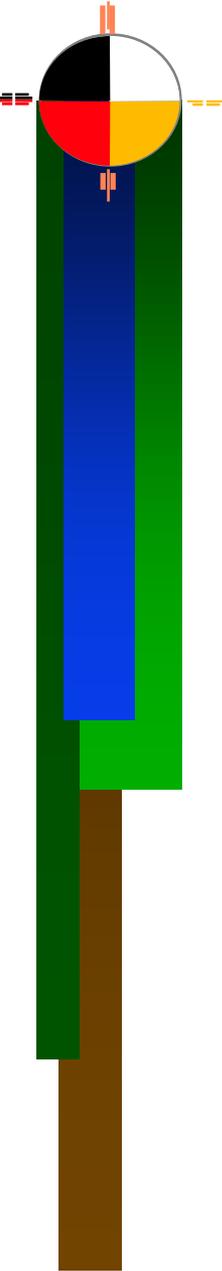
# Examples: Physical Abuse

- **Tribal Judges and Title VI Directors**
  - Physical abuse by spouses, children, and grandchildren
- **Tribal Elders**
  - No examples of physical abuse



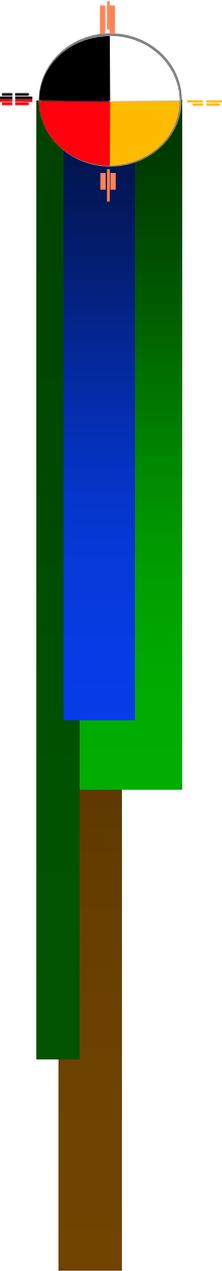
# Examples: Emotional Abuse

- **Tribal Elders**
  - Related to their role in the family:
    - Treating them as if they didn't matter anymore
    - Not listening when elders speak



# Examples: Neglect and Exploitation

- **All Three Groups**
  - Family members using an elder's money, car, food, and medications
  - Family members have little time to care for elders
  - Failure to report abuse

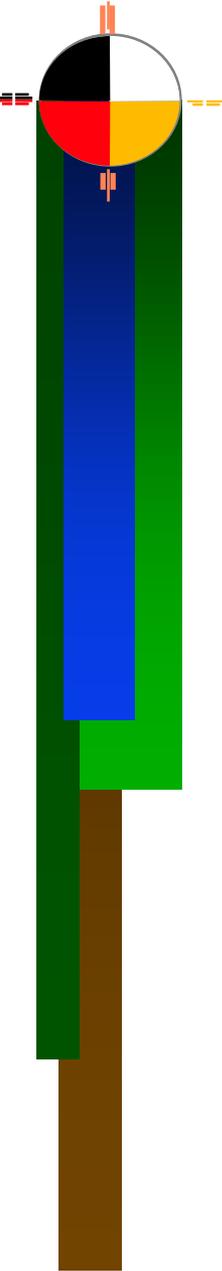


# Examples: Neglect and Exploitation

- **Title VI Directors and Tribal Elders**
  - **Excessive use as a baby sitter**

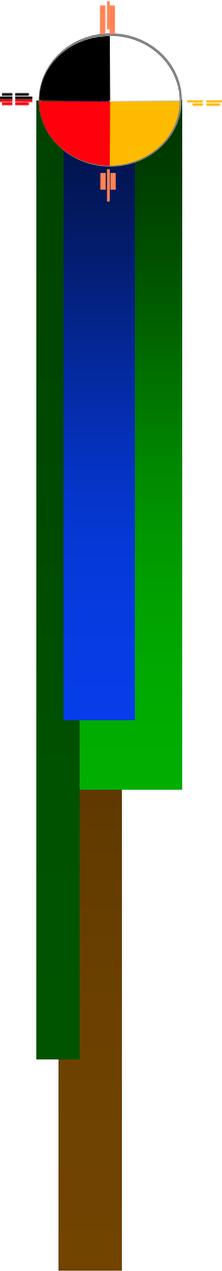
# Examples: Neglect

- **Tribal Elders**
  - **Not including elders in gatherings**



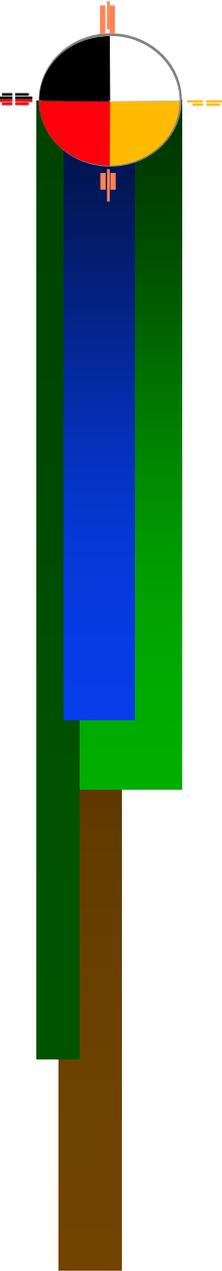
# Elder Abuse Prevention and Intervention

- **Tribal Judges**
  - **Community Training**
  - **Create Community Elder Abuse Task Force**
  - **Create simple elder abuse criminal and civil codes**



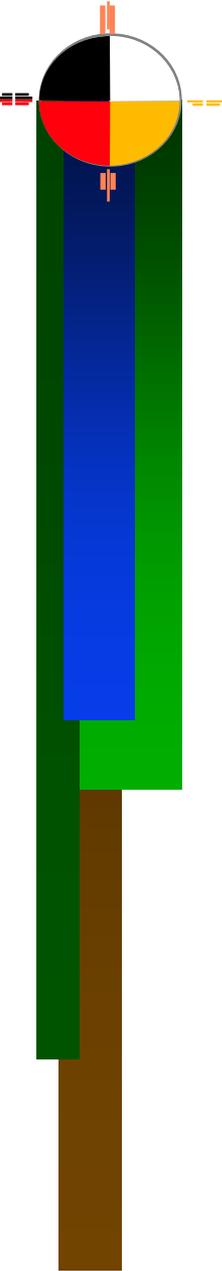
# Elder Abuse Prevention and Intervention

- **Title VI Directors**
  - **Community Training**
  - **Refer families and clients to appropriate services**
  - **Encourage Tribal Council to approve Tribal Elder Abuse Codes**



# Elder Abuse Prevention and Intervention

- **Tribal Elders**
  - **Social Services and elders programs need to keep a closer watch on elders at home**
  - **Encourage people to report**
  - **Work with Tribal courts for stricter sentencing**



# Elder Abuse Prevention and Intervention

- **Entire community should work together**
- **Increased socialization activities for elders**
- **Promote community awareness**
- **Adult Protective Services**

# Administration on Aging

- **Prevention of Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation (Title VII-A3)**
- **National Center on Elder Abuse (Title II)**
- **Training and Technical Assistance**

# Administration on Aging

- **Prevention of Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation (Title VII-A3)**

# Administration on Aging

- **National Center on Elder Abuse (Title II)**

# National Center on Elder Abuse

Administration on Aging

- About NCEA**
- What We Do
- NCEA Partners
- NCEA Initiatives
- Find Help**
- Help Hotline
- ElderCare Locator
- Find State Resources
- Resources for Families
- Adult Protective Services
- FAQ's**
- Frequently Asked Questions

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**"Join Us" in the Fight Against Elder Abuse!**



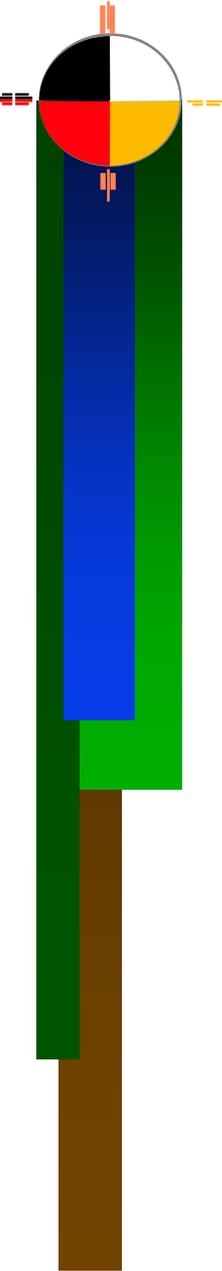
**Click Here** for fact sheets, ideas, and tools to help you or your organization

**State Resources: Helplines, Hotlines, and Information**



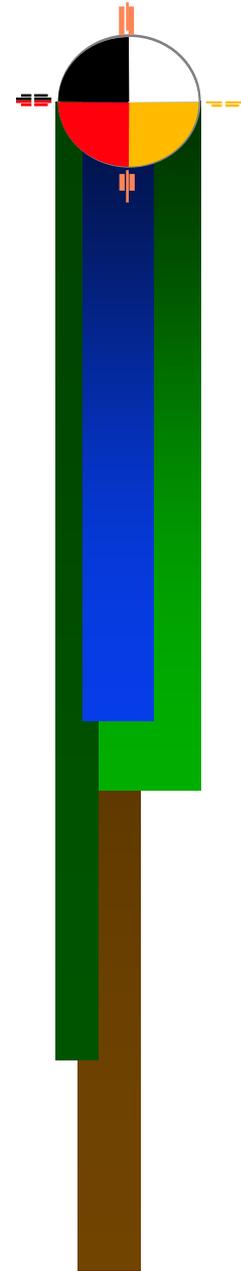
If you suspect elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation, **Click Here**

- Popular links**
- About NCEA
  - Fact Sheet: Why Should I Care About Elder Abuse?
  - Elder Abuse Prevalence (PDF)
  - Statistics at a Glance
- Latest Downloads**



# National Center on Elder Abuse Mini-Grants

- **2007**
  - Sault Ste. Marie Tribe
  - Eagle Shield Senior Center
- **2008**
  - DNA People's Legal Services
  - Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
- **2009**
  - Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe



**National Center  
on Elder Abuse**

**Creating Effective Local Elder Abuse  
Prevention Networks:  
A Planning Guide**



# Administration on Aging

- **Training and Technical Assistance**

# Training and Technical Assistance

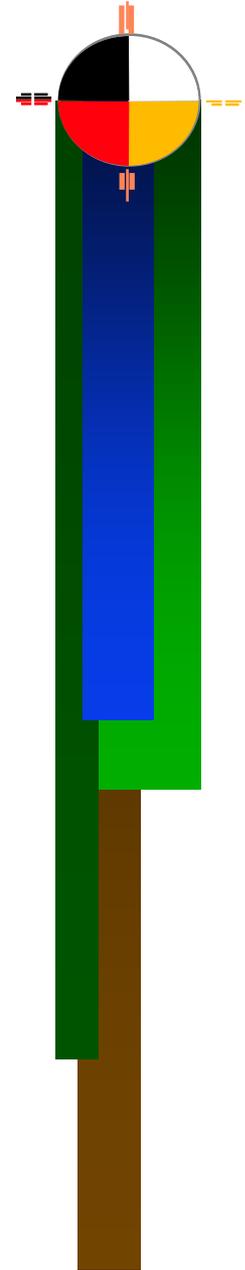


The screenshot shows a Windows Internet Explorer browser window displaying the OlderIndians.org website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.olderindians.org/chatsession.cfm>. The website's navigation menu includes links for HOME, ABOUT, FOR DIRECTORS, EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, RESOURCES, LINKS, HELP, and CONTACT. A search bar is located in the top right corner.

The main content area is titled "UPCOMING TITLE VI CHATS/TELE-TRAININGS". It lists two sessions:

- Date: May 12, 2010**  
**Topic: Physical or Emotional Elder Abuse and Neglect**  
8:00 a.m. (HT) - 10:00 a.m. (AKDT) - 11:00 a.m. (PDT) - 11:00 a.m. (AZ) - 12:00 p.m. (MDT) - 1:00 p.m. (CDT) - 2:00 p.m. (EDT)  
**Description:** Protecting tribal elders from elder abuse and neglect is a responsibility that everyone involved with Title VI shares, but funds are not provided to Title VI Grantees through the Older Americans Act. Many Tribes have established successful elder abuse and neglect programs and codes through inter-departmental efforts, coordination with outside agencies, or by successfully accessing other funds.  
Please join us on May 12, 2010 to discuss physical or emotional elder abuse and neglect, and learn how successful Tribal programs have been developed.  
**Facilitator: Jane Raymond, Advocacy and Protection Systems Developer, Wisconsin Bureau on Aging and Disability Resources, WI**  
[Click here for more information](#)
- Date: June 9, 2010**  
**Topic: Fraud and Financial Exploitation of Tribal Elders**  
8:00 a.m. (HT) - 10:00 a.m. (AKDT) - 11:00 a.m. (PDT) - 11:00 a.m. (AZ) - 12:00 p.m. (MDT) - 1:00 p.m. (CDT) - 2:00 p.m. (EDT)  
**Description:** Sadly there are predators "out there" that are looking for seniors just like yours, and many know a senior who has been a victim of fraud or financial abuse. Some of those predators are acquaintances, close friends or family members.  
Title VI Directors and staff can assist seniors to be ready for these predators simply by providing information

The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with the following items: WELCOME TYONNE JACKSON, CHANGE YOUR PASSWORD, LOG OUT, For Directors (Message Board, Directors Tutorial, Record Keeping/Reporting, Resource Manual, Upcoming Chapter Trainings, Upcoming Chat Sessions, Previous Chat Sessions, Training/Technical Assistance Presentations, 2009 Forum Presentations, Director Resources, Find a Title VI Director, Training/Technical Assistance Ask Phone), Newsletters, Funding Descriptions, and Peer Consultants. At the bottom of the sidebar is the logo for the Administration on Aging (AOA).



**Thank you.**

**[yvonne.jackson@aoa.hhs.gov](mailto:yvonne.jackson@aoa.hhs.gov)**