



Center of Excellence in Elder Abuse and Neglect

Elder Abuse Bytes

Issue 1, August 2008

An e-newsletter from the Center of Excellence in Elder Abuse & Neglect at the University of California, Irvine Program in Geriatrics

Promoting aging with joy and eliminating aging in fear.

RESEARCH: Mild Cognitive Impairment Can Affect Medical Decision-Making

According to researchers at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, patients with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) scored significantly lower than controls on measures for:

- Appreciating the consequences of a treatment choice
- Reasoning for making a particular treatment choice
- Understanding the treatment situation, treatment choices, and risks/benefits

(Okonkwo, O., et al. Medical decision-making capacity in patients with mild cognitive impairment. *Neurology*. 2007 Oct 9;69(15):1528-35.)

<http://www.neurology.org/cgi/content/abstract/69/15/1528>

EDUCATION: Effective Court Practice for Abused Elders The Judicial Council of California Administrative Office of the Courts "Effective Court Practice for Abused Elders" project has posted their final report online.

Highlights include:

- Results of a statewide survey on the court response to elder abuse
- Descriptions of best practices in four study counties
- A new Elder Abuse Curriculum for California Courts

<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/pdffiles/EffectiveCourtAbused%20Elders-Main.pdf> (main body of report)

<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/pdffiles/EffectiveCourtAbusedElders-Appendixes.pdf> (appendices)

ADVOCACY: Sign up for Elder PEACE! Elder abuse victims and those who love them finally have a voice. Join Elder PEACE and channel the anger, frustration and pain into constructive change. Sign up by emailing

elderpeace@centeronelderabuse.org

DINE OUT AGAINST ELDER ABUSE! Please mark your calendars for Monday, September 15, 2008 – Coco's and Carrows Restaurants throughout California will be hosting a fundraiser to combat elder abuse. For more information visit our News and Events page <http://www.centeronelderabuse.org/page.cfm?pgid=28> or download the flyer (pdf) http://www.centeronelderabuse.org/files/Coco_CarrowsFlyer-Final.pdf

DID YOU KNOW... the Mini-Mental Status Exam (MMSE) is NOT a test to determine one's capacity to make decisions, judgment and reasoning? MMSE tests for orientation, memory and language abilities. For purposes of capacity determination, Orange County Elder Abuse Forensic Center Psychologist, Bonnie Olsen, Ph.D. suggests

seeking a neuropsychological assessment to determine the client's capacity to make the particular decision in question.

INTRODUCING THE GERIATRIC POCKET DOC The *Geriatric Pocket Doc* is a portable field guide of medical information for non-physicians who work with older adults. It includes special sections on indicators of abuse and neglect \$10
<http://www.centeronelderabuse.org/page.cfm?pgid=58>

PLEASE ADD our sending address, centeronelderabuse@uci.edu to your address book!

PLEASE FORWARD THIS E-MAIL to your contacts who might be interested.

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