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DATE

A 73-year-old woman was found living on a urine-soaked couch and wrapped in a tattered blanket crawling with roaches and maggots. Her son, who also was her landlord, charged his mother \$450 a month to live in an apartment with no heat or running water. Police said, "The place wasn't habitable for an animal, let alone a human."

Two siblings who kept their 58-year-old developmentally disabled sister in a backyard shed were charged with neglecting their sister and taking her Social Security checks. Prosecutors said police were responding to an unrelated report when they discovered a woman living in an 8-by-12-foot metal shed in the back yard of the siblings' home. Among the items found in the shed were a mattress, a thin blanket, a space heater with a frayed cord and a portable toilet, authorities said.

An elderly man spent his last days alive, drugged and duct-taped to a chair in the basement of his caregiver's home. After the reclusive millionaire died, his body was stuffed into a trash can and then burned. Meanwhile, the caregiver used a Power of Attorney to drain the millionaire's investment accounts.

Dear Colleague:

These are only a few examples of the types of vulnerable adult and elder abuse and neglect cases that Law Enforcement and Adult Protective Services encounter every day. And experts estimate that only one in every ten cases is reported and some believe these is understated.

The National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) would like to invite law enforcement personnel who are interested in receiving cutting edge information, training and resources on Elder Abuse and Adult Protective Services to join us in our efforts to work toward the protection of seniors and adults with disabilities.

NAPSA is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1989 that is committed to improving the quality and availability of protective services for persons with disabilities and elderly persons who are abused, neglected, exploited and unable to protect their own interests. Law Enforcement will find assistance in accessing resources, cross-training opportunities, and collaboration with Adult Protective Services (APS) and others in the aging/disability networks that can provide assistance with the many complicated issues encountered by seniors and adults with disabilities. Both APS and Law Enforcement are charged with protection of these vulnerable populations. While law enforcement personnel address the criminal aspects, Adult Protective Services helps the victims to meet their immediate and long-term needs. It is in working together that we are able to protect these growing populations.

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Phone: 217-523-4431, Fax: 217-522-6650, e-mail: membership@apsnetwork.org

Because NAPSA recognizes the importance of collaboration among Law Enforcement and Adult Protective Services, a reduced membership rate of \$25 is offered for those in law enforcement.

Membership Benefits include:

- **Education/Training.** Members may expand basic knowledge and acquire new job skills through seminars, workshops, conferences, and online courses. NAPSA members receive reduced registration fees for training events.
 - NAPSA holds the only national conference on Adult Protective Services clients, services and issues. The annual conference is filled with learning opportunities for law enforcement personnel who work with adults with disabilities and elders who have been abused, neglected or exploited. (<http://apsnetwork.org/Training/conference.htm>).
 - NAPSA develops and provides training modules, technical assistance on training and also manages a national library of training materials. (http://apsnetwork.org/Resources/training_library.htm).
 - NAPSA provides quarterly training webcasts and additional research webcasts for members. With a stressed economy, these free training opportunities can prove to be a more efficient means of increasing the knowledge and skill of your personnel. These webinars can be accessed on the NAPSA webcast archive page at <http://apsnetwork.org/Resources/webcasts.htm>.
- **Networking opportunities.** NAPSA members make valuable contacts with professionals from across the country working with the aging and disabled populations. Networking opportunities exist through the listserve, the annual conference, volunteering for committees and/or taking a prominent leadership role with NAPSA. Law enforcement personnel who are interested in expanding their knowledge and skills in working with the vulnerable populations of seniors and adults with disabilities can benefit from the opportunity to network with experienced professionals who can provide on-going information and technical assistance on a wide variety of related subjects.
- **Exclusive online resources.** The NAPSA website offers members access to a wealth of information through a variety of databases and message boards, as well as listserve subscriptions, allowing for the exchange of information, new resources, best practices and upcoming events and special activities that may be open only to professionals in the aging/disability network.

For more information on NAPSA and membership enrollment, please review the enclosed application brochure.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

NAPSA Membership Committee