

County of Orange
World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
June 15, 2026

WHEREAS, June 15 has been designated every year as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse since 2006, to recognize the significance of elder abuse as a public health and human rights issue; and

WHEREAS, approximately 756,000 older adults age 60 and older reside in Orange County according to the U.S. Census, representing 24% of the county's total population; and

WHEREAS, the number of older adults age 65 and older is projected to reach 36% of Orange County's total population by 2060, underscoring the urgent need for proactive, integrated strategies to support elders and their caregivers; and

WHEREAS, each year, approximately 1 in 10 older adults experience some form of abuse, which may include financial, physical, sexual or psychological harm, neglect, abandonment or exploitation; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, the County of Orange Social Services Agency's Adult Protective Services program received 22,249 reports regarding abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, older adults are more likely to experience abuse due to factors such as mental impairment, social isolation or declining physical health and mobility; and

WHEREAS, elder abuse is often underreported, with only one in 24 cases of such abuse nationwide estimated to be reported to authorities; and

WHEREAS, the County of Orange and its community partners are committed to protecting and supporting elders by addressing issues of exploitation, neglect and abuse, and providing information and resources to assist them and their caregivers; and

WHEREAS, all Orange County residents are urged to report suspected abuse of older adults and dependent adults by calling Adult Protective Services, California Long-Term Care Ombudsman or law enforcement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Orange County Board of Supervisors does hereby proclaim June 15, 2026, as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Orange County and encourage residents to honor all older adults in their vibrant contributions to the community and to support efforts to safeguard their dignity and right to live long, peaceful and healthy lives.