

## Rituals of Respect

Never before have so many Indian people lived for so long. From family members to health care providers, generational and cultural awareness are essential for those providing care to Indian Elders. The following are key themes to consider:

- **Renewal** - reminders that the elder is still valued
- **Intensification** - reinforcement of a person's status as an elder
- **Revitalization** - recapturing old roles and breathing new life into them

Caregivers and service providers should remember to:

- Welcome and honor the elder as someone they will provide special care for
- Convey a strong sense of caring and honor for the elder
- Maintain human empathy and consideration for the elder's self image, life and spirit

Rituals of respect are a means of providing elders with necessary care while sustaining their spirit for themselves, their families, and their tribe.

*Based on Rituals of Respect:  
Medicine for the Spirit  
by J. Neil Henderson, PhD*



*"Our land is everything to us...  
I will tell you one of the things  
we remember on our land. We  
remember that our grandfathers  
paid for it - with their lives."*

*~ John Wooden Legs, Cheyenne*

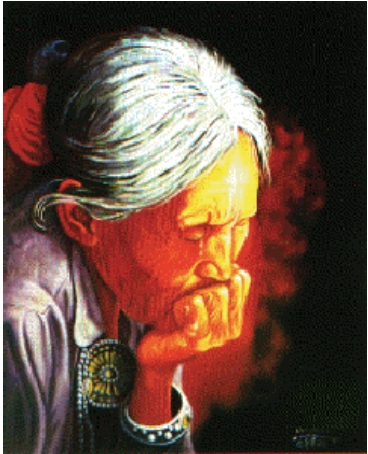
## Under One Sky Respect and Awareness for Elders

### Elder Abuse Awareness Month



Morongo Band of Mission Indians  
Social Services  
Prevention and Education  
May 2010

## Elder Abuse - Does it really happen in Indian Country?



### Examples of abuse incidents reported by key informants in a study published by the National Indian Council on Aging in 2004:

- An elderly woman was removed from a nursing home so that family members could gain access to her income checks
- Family members set up a methamphetamine lab in the home of an elder
- A non-ambulatory elder was left without water or food and was not taken to critical medical appointments
- A son and daughter-in-law overmedicated a wealthy older woman in order to accelerate her death
- An elder signed over her home to her grandson, expecting that she would continue living there until she died. The grandson evicted her
- An elderly woman reported to her physician that she had been the victim of domestic violence for 15 years

### Negative behavior trends of Elders' family members:

- Elders' family members come to visit at the beginning of the month and either take the elders' money or leave when the money runs out
- Young children are left with elders who lack the strength or resources to provide care
- Some elders have extremely valuable artifacts, including traditional costumes, baskets and beadwork, which is highly sought after by collectors. These assets are sometimes taken and sold by family members or others who have access to elders' homes. Many of these items should be maintained within the tribe
- Family members threaten or manipulate elders into signing over funds

### Types of Elder Abuse:

- Physical Abuse
  - Sexual Abuse
- Psychological Abuse
  - Abandonment
  - Self Neglect
- Financial Abuse



### How to report suspected elder abuse:

Adult Protective Services (APS) provides a system of in-person response, 24 hours per day, seven days per week. The APS program provides support and interventions to elders (age 65 and older) and disabled adults (ages 18 and older) to alleviate physical, sexual and financial abuse, neglect, isolation, abandonment, abduction and mental suffering.

Morongo Child and Family Services will work with APS to provide intervention in cases of Elder Abuse. To report Elder Abuse call:

Adult Protective Services  
(800) 491-7123

Morongo Child and Family Services  
(951) 572-6186