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Sheet 1 Legal and social interventions in elder abuse – counselling phone lines

Sheet 2

- Advantages of emergency and counselling telephones:
- Low threshold and anonymity
- Easy access and manageability
- Bandwidth from "mere" listening to crisis intervention
- Requirements:
- Uniform access number, no possibility of confusion
- High level of awareness through public relations
- reachability
- Greater precision in intervention through specialization
- Establishment of an intervention chain

• Sheet 3 Experiences of the advice phone from Pro Senectute

- Two thirds of the calls are from older people (65+), otherwise from relatives, neighbours, employees of institutions...
- 9 out of 10 callers are female
- Variety of topics addressed, not just violent phenomena
- The reason for the calls: often the need to talk often takes several hours
- where is truth? A hotline cannot and does not want to carry out "investigations".
- Frequently unrealistic ideas about the legal situation and real possibilities for intervention

• Sheet 4 Most important counselling topic: family relationships

- Threats, exploitation, deprivation of liberty, physical violence
- Inviolability of privacy: grievances remain undetected for a long time afraid to reveal themselves to outsiders
- The problem of complaining people who then do not follow the suggestions of the counselling or do not attend the mediation appointment
- Often a long history: unsuccessful involvement of the police, courts, lawyers: reports are often put aside by public prosecutors
- Remarkable accumulation of cases from rural areas

• Sheet 5 Typical scenarios in the family

- · Nursing stress and aggression phenomena, especially caused by dementia
- Marital conflicts, usually initiated by the husband, often exacerbated by alcohol abuse
- Male demands for control lead wives to helplessness and despair rather than rebellion
- Use and "abuse" of care allowance, but probably also numerous misinterpretations

- Sheet 6 neighbourhood conflicts
- Intolerable behaviour or "neglect" should be "turned off".
- Desire usually remains illusory because there is no legal basis or psychiatric disorder that requires placement
- Some degree of harassment has to be tolerated
- **Sheet 7** Adult representation (formerly guardianship)
- Complaint that some adult representatives do not live up to their responsibilities
- Restrictive money management
- Disinterest in clients
- Institutions are pushing for an adult representative to be appointed
- Sheet 8 Relatives complain about institutions (and vice versa)
- The quality of the relationship between the professionals and the relatives of the elderly cared for is impaired
- Allegedly poor quality of care, criticism of medical measures (mobilization, catheter placement) in the hospital
- Divergent views on the organization of everyday life in the home, especially in homes with a residential character
- Nursing home management does not feel responsible for problems in public space
- Sheet 9 Calls from professionals
- "Official" complaints failed
- Fear of repression, of defamation lawsuits (usually unjustified), of job loss
- advantage of anonymity
- Also calls from nursing homes' management, but almost only because of disputes with relatives, they wish to inform the public
- Sheet 10 Findings from the discussions of the advisory telephone
- The limits of telephone counselling are reached relatively quickly
- Afterwards, outreach advice and help would be necessary
- Often unrealistic ideas about legal intervention options