

The Elder Law Advisor

Derryl Molina


**TODAY'S ADVICE:
MORE ELDER ABUSE FACTS**

Elder abuse is a serious problem because persons over 65 often live in fear that they will be abandoned, injured, neglected, yelled at or hurt if they reveal their situation. So they deny the abuse and live in a dangerous state of despair.

- **Those who become abused** are more likely to be isolated females with some vulnerability, whether physical or mental.
- **Abuse of an older adult** suffering from dementia is a hard case to prosecute, because the time needed to navigate the legal system makes it more likely that cognitive impairment will become too severe to matter.
- **People who experience violence** in their youth suffer dementia earlier and faster.
- **Those who abuse others** are more likely to be male family members, usually the victim's adult child or spouse.
- **Abuse in the familial relationship** is much harder for relatives to report.
- **Abusers are often financially dependent** on the elder's resources and have problems with alcohol and drugs.
- **Abusers generally** were abused as children.
- **Different age groups** report higher numbers of certain type of frauds — Internet scams affect the young, dating cons capture the middle aged and "advance-fee" frauds reel in the elderly.
- **Canadians alone** lost more than \$57 million to "mass marketing" frauds in 2013. It's a worldwide plague.

CALL TODAY to sign up for a FREE, two-hour Elder Abuse seminar sponsored by *ActiveOver50*, Thursday October 30, 2014 – 9am to 11am. Call 408. 244.4992.

DERRYL H. MOLINA is an Elder Law Attorney in San Jose, California who helps clients prevent and rectify cases of abuse. Also knowledgeable in Trusts and Mediation, Mrs. Molina can serve as your Full Life Care Planning Attorney. Contact Derryl H. Molina at 408.244.4992 or at attderryl@comcast.net. See her website: www.fulllifecareplanner.net



The Miracle of Music

By Larry W. Hayes

A few weeks ago, I visited my Aunt Fern, 91, in a nursing home in Newton, KS. She's like my "second mother" and very dear to me.

Her daughter Robin warned me that Fern had declined a lot since I last visited—about 18 months ago.

So I expected the worst but it was still shocking and sad to see her lying down on a sofa chair propped up in front of a large TV—unable to move or lift her head.

She did recognize me and did her best to engage in a conversation, although she struggled. Like millions of older Americans, she suffers from dementia and declining health.

Most of her waking hours are spent in front of a TV that she neither watches or listens to. It is just on. I didn't see a radio or hear any music at the nursing home.

What could I do to put a smile on her face?

Recently my wife and I saw an inspiring, moving documentary, "*Alive Inside*" which shows how music brings happiness and joy to loved ones with dementia.

Upon my return to California, I immediately ordered an iPod for my aunt Fern. Robin downloaded Fern's favorite songs and played them for her.

"She smiles and enjoys the music," says Robin. "What seemed more interesting to her is the technology. That such a little device could hold so many songs!" Fern was always a smart lady!

Amazing what music and technology can do to help those you love. Even help bring out a smile! To learn more about the miracle of music for dementia patients, go to: musicandmemory.org.