

# The First Visit

## Checklist for Service Providers Reaching Out to Faith-Based Organizations Regarding Elder Abuse

- Call for appointment. Be aware of holidays and service schedule. Check the community's website.
- Learn appropriate etiquette for visit.
  - Cover your head and/or arms?
  - Women wear skirts?
  - Wash your feet upon entrance?
  - Take off your shoes?
  - Men enter one door, women another?
  - Usual mode of greeting (bow, handshake, etc.)?
  - Other considerations?
- Confirm time and location. Be prompt. Bring resources (and symbolic gift, if you have one).
- State your reason for the visit: many elder abuse victims turn to faith leaders for help. You need their support to help keep victims safe. Faith community leadership is critical.
- Briefly explain what elder abuse is and that it affects all faith communities.
- Ask about their experiences. Listen. Ask questions.
- Briefly explain your agency's interest in keeping victims safe.
- Suggest partnering with the congregation. Ask what a partnership might look like. Listen.
- Plan a next step.
  - Ask for their ideas.
  - Invite this contact to roundtable or other forum?
  - Plan another visit with additional participants?
  - Invite this contact and others to a training or event?
  - Other suggestions.
- Send thank you note and follow up on next steps.

For more information, please visit [www.interfaithpartners.org](http://www.interfaithpartners.org) or [www.ncall.us](http://www.ncall.us).