

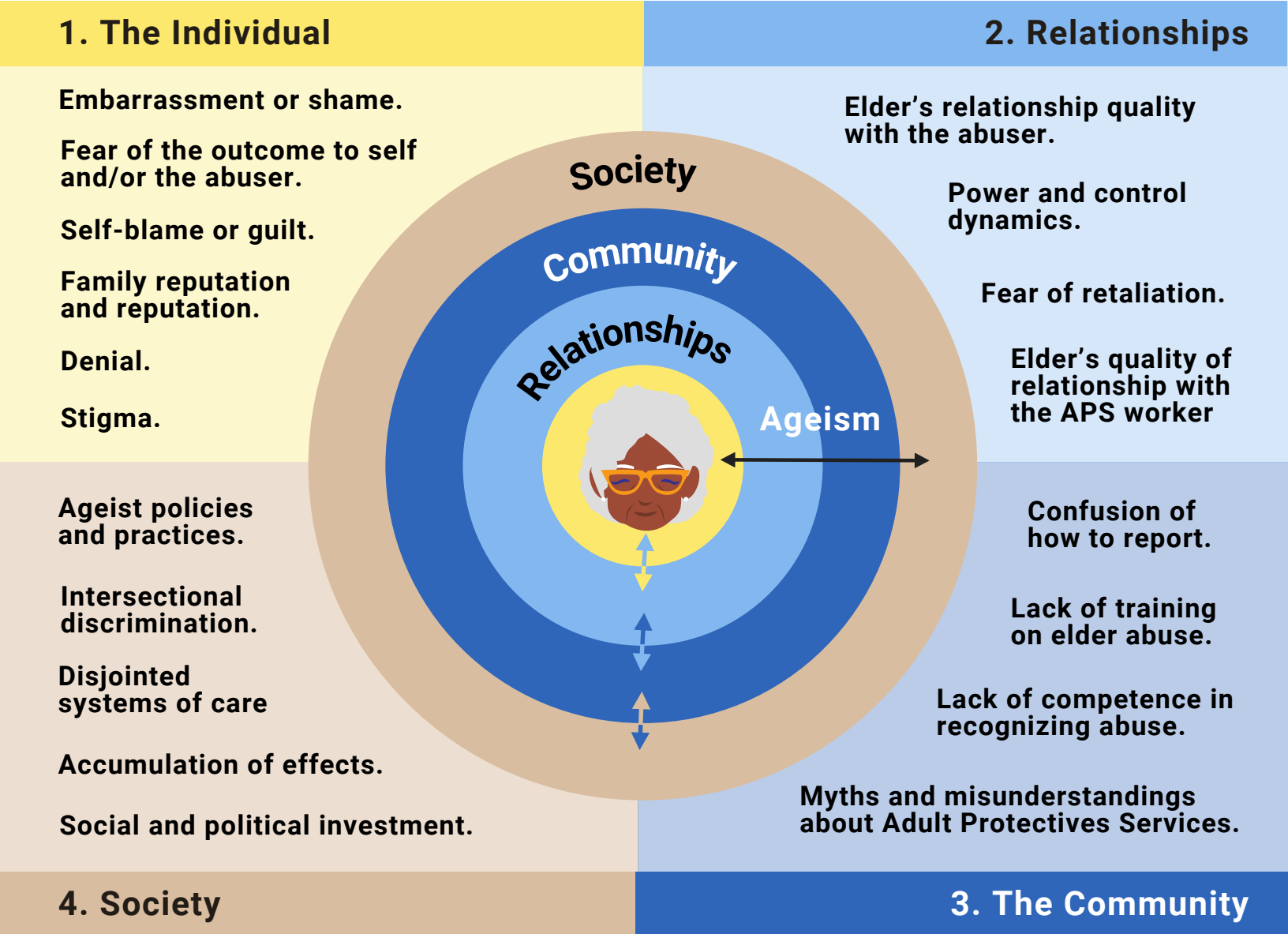
# Barriers to Seeking Elder Justice Services



1 in 6 people aged 60 years and older experience elder abuse (1). And it's likely that only 1 in 24 cases become known to authorities (2).

In 2023, Adult Protective Services (APS) in Virginia documented 4,072 cases where older adults 'need and accept services' and 2,525 cases where they 'need and refuse services'. It's important to note that all adults, unless deemed incapable of decision-making, have the right to refuse services and supports. This is called 'self-determination' and must be respected.

Elder mistreatment is often a complex and traumatic experience and there are many reasons for why people don't report it, or seek or accept services. Here are some reasons according to research.



**If you suspect or witness elder mistreatment, call the Adult Protective Services 24 hour, toll free hotline at 888-832-3858**

References: 1. Yon et al., 2017; 2. Storey, 2020; Adult Protective Services, 2024.