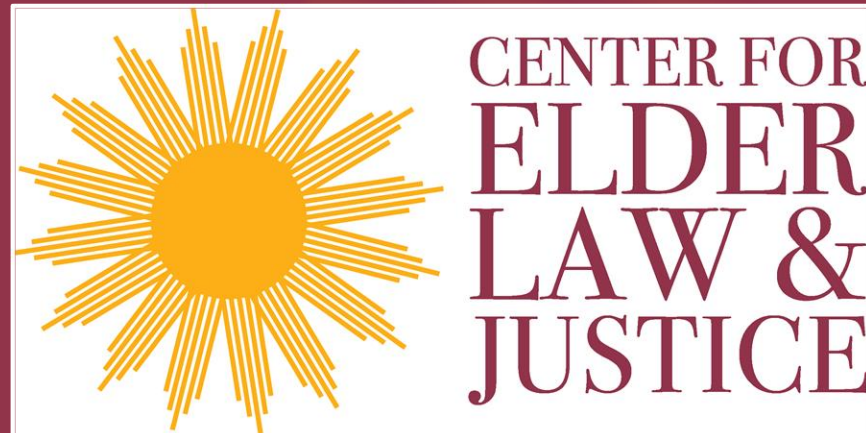


# Kinship Care, Elder Abuse, and Family Court

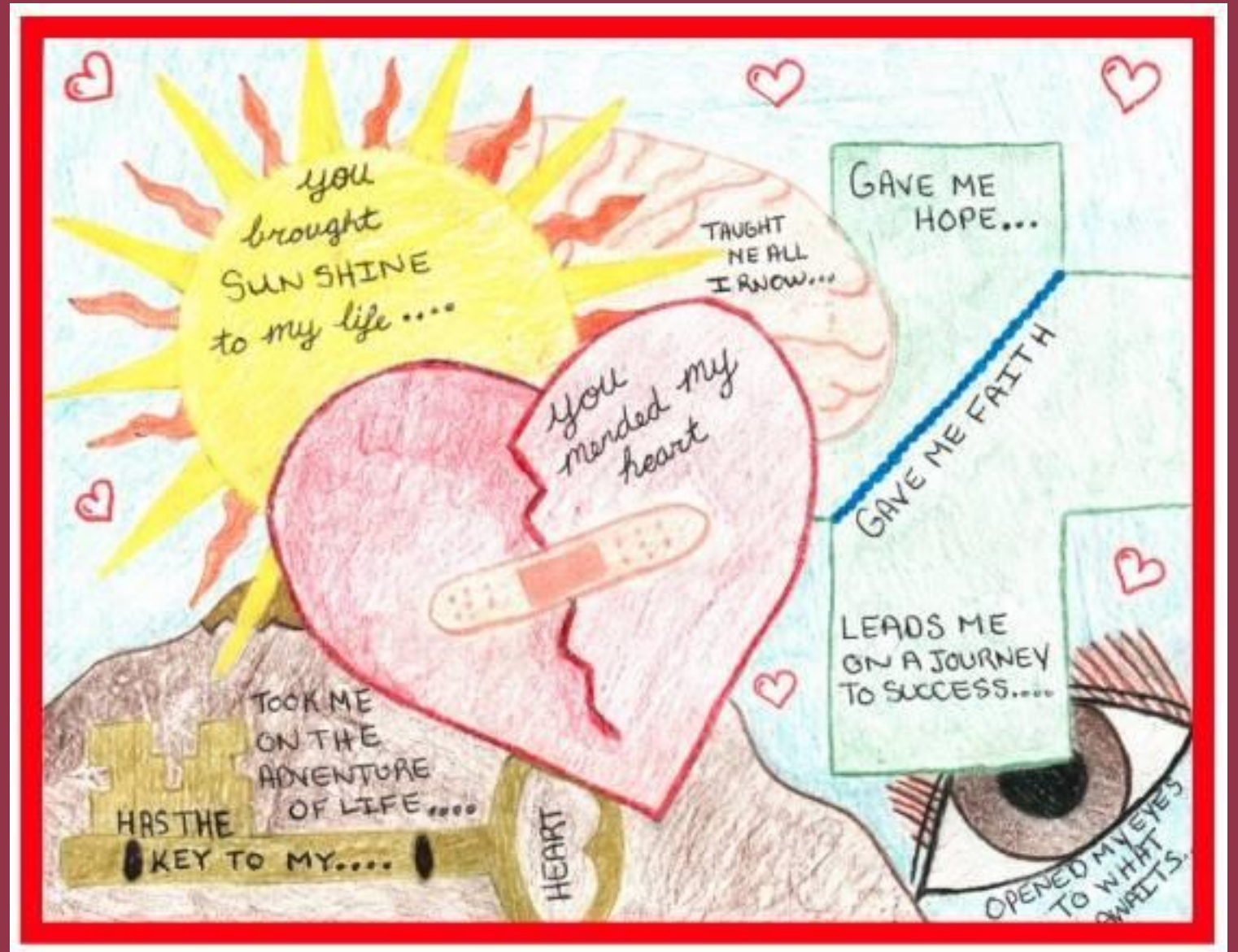
Elder Law Day 2020

Presentation by Hon. Kevin M. Carter & Sarah B. Hedden, Esq., MSW



# Kinship Care

- Grandparent visitation
- Who are kinship caregivers
- Why some parents are unable to care for their children
- Formal vs informal caregiving
- Benefits available to kinship caregivers
- Changing family dynamics
- Kinship caregiver burnout



# Elder Abuse

- What qualifies one as “elder”
- Most common types of elder abuse
  - What we see in Family Court
  - Types of elder abuse known nationally
- Reasons for increased prevalence of elder abuse
- Family Court
  - Pre-covid applications
  - Filings during the pandemic
  - Should petitioners have a lawyer represent them?
  - What happens during court appearances

**KNOW ABUSE REPORT ABUSE**  
ELDER AND DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

## DON'T MISS THE SIGNS

- NEGLECT / SELF-NEGLECT**
  - Lack of adequate food and water
  - Dirty clothing and changes in personal hygiene
  - Unusually messy home
  - Lack of medical aids or medication
- FINANCIAL ABUSE**
  - Basic needs not being met
  - Bills not paid
  - New credit cards and increased cash withdrawals
  - Unusual purchases by caregiver
- PHYSICAL ABUSE**
  - Bruises, black eyes, welts
  - Broken bones, cuts, sprains
  - Sudden change in behavior
  - Caregiver refusal to leave elder or dependent adult alone
- MENTAL ABUSE**
  - Threatening significant physical harm
  - Derogatory or inappropriate names, insults, profanity, or ridicule
  - Harassment, coercion, intimidation, humiliation
- SEXUAL ABUSE**
  - Unusual bruising on thighs and chest
  - Unexplained sexually transmitted diseases
  - Unusual stains on clothing or sheets
  - Withdrawn from social interactions / panic attacks

# Resources

## KINSHIP

- Center for Elder Law and Justice Kinship Program
  - [shedden@elderjusticenyc.org](mailto:shedden@elderjusticenyc.org)
  - 716-878-9297
- New York State Kinship Navigator
  - [nysnavigator.org](http://nysnavigator.org)
  - 877-454-6463
- Erie County Family Court
  - 716-845-7400

## ELDER ABUSE

- Center for Elder Law and Justice Elder Abuse Prevention Unit
  - 716-853-3087
- Legal Risk Detector App
  - <https://probononet.neotalogic.com/a/riskdetectorny>
- Council on Elder Abuse
  - 716-941-4994
- Erie County Family Court
  - 716-845-7400



# Contact Information

**Main Office:**

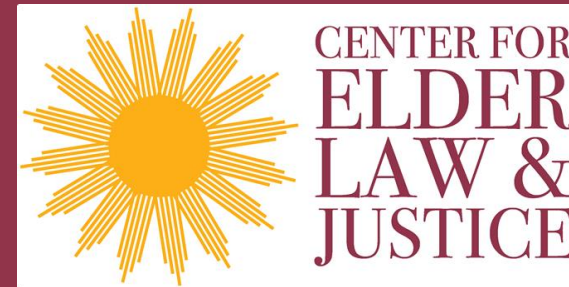
438 Main St., Ste. 1200  
Buffalo, NY 14702  
(716) 853-3087

**Chautauqua Office:**

314 Central Ave., Ste. 300  
Dunkirk, NY 14048  
(716) 261-3275

**Niagara Office:**

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