

# COALITION OF ADVOCATES FOR GEORGIA'S ELDERLY

## 2024 CO-AGE Legislative Priority

### Create a Statewide Adult Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Multidisciplinary Team Coordinator Program and Elder Justice Coalition



## The Issue

- Many cases of adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation involve varied professionals with varied levels of expertise thus leading to the creation of Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs). These teams can include Adult Protective Services, Long-Term Care Ombudsmen, law enforcement, nonprofits and other appropriate state and local agencies. The make-up of an MDT varies based on the case and the needs of the local community.
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## The Why

- Out of the 49 judicial circuits in Georgia, there are currently 5 Elder and Disabled Adult Abuse MDTs across the state: Blue Ridge, Cobb, Stone Mountain, Southern, and Rockdale Judicial Circuits.
- In 2018, legislation was passed in Georgia to authorize judicial circuits to create Adult Abuse MDTs. They have proven to be an effective tools in the circuits that have them. However, the law did not make them mandatory and many circuits have not been able to implement them due to heavy prosecutor caseloads and lack of administrative resources. As a result, there is no uniform state response to address elder abuse, exploitation, and neglect.

## The Recommendation

- CO-AGE proposes the creation of a Statewide Multidisciplinary Team Coordinator Program within the Prosecuting Attorney's Council (PAC) of Georgia and an Elder Justice Coalition, which will provide infrastructure for a statewide, uniform response to elder abuse in each judicial circuit.

