

Sometimes a happy ending

Reporting any sign or suspicion of abuse, neglect, or exploitation is always the best course—even when, as in this case, the explanation for what appear to be bruises turns out to be both innocent and delightful.

An assisted living facility reported that an elderly resident who had spent the weekend visiting a nephew had returned with bruises all over her face and neck. An APS caseworker and supervisor immediately went to the facility.

Here's how the supervisor described their findings:

“Upon arrival, the lady had multiple bluish green areas on her cheek, eyes, forehead, upper lip, and nose. As I moved closer and was examining her face, she sweetly placed her nose on my nose and rubbed. It was the cutest thing. The closer I looked, the more suspicious I became. The caseworker and I helped her to her room, and she allowed me to wash her face. The ‘bruises’ came away with soap and water. The culprit...VO5 blue conditioner for her hair. She had been using it for face cream, and it had caked and dried and resembled bruises.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if all of the allegations could be washed away with tenderness, soap, and water?”