

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals
Office of Aging and Adult Services



Objectives

- Provide an overview of the role of Protective Services
- Provide information on mandatory reporting

Where does abuse
occur?

Everywhere!



The abuse of vulnerable adult occurs in all communities, regardless of income, ethnicity, or religious background.

Prevalence of abuse

- Adults with disabilities are more vulnerable to abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- Louisiana received over 7100 reports of abuse last fiscal year.
- Only 1 in 10 cases of abuse is reported.

Abuse of adults with disabilities

Approximately 34 million U.S. adults aged 18 and over have a disability.

Unfortunately, some of these vulnerable adults are abused by family members, service providers, care assistants, and others.

This abuse places the victim's health, safety, emotional well being, and ability to engage in daily life activities at risk.

Who does Adult Protection serve?

Adult Protection serves vulnerable adults ages 18 and over (and emancipated minors) who live in a domestic setting and have a limited ability to provide for their own care or protection.

Who is a vulnerable adult?

- Persons with a mental, developmental, or physical disability
- Persons with chronic disease
- Frail elders

Types of Abuse

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Abandonment
- Caregiver Neglect
- Self Neglect
- Financial Exploitation

Caregiver Neglect

Caregiver neglect is the failure, by a person responsible for an adult's care, to provide care necessary for the adult's well-being.

Examples include:

- Food
- Medicine and medical treatment
- Proper shelter
- Clothing

Caregiver neglect can be intentional or unintentional.

Self Neglect

Self neglect is the failure, either by the adult's action or inaction, to provide the proper care necessary for his/her own well-being.

Self Neglect



Financial Exploitation

- Misusing or stealing the adult's money or possessions
- Cashing one's check without authorization or permission
- Forging a signature or coercing or deceiving a person into signing a financial document

What does Protective Services do?

Protective Services investigates for abuse/neglect/exploitation.

If abuse/neglect/exploitation is substantiated, Protective Services:

- Links adults to community agencies that offer the services needed to remedy the abuse.
- Provides civil legal remedies to stop the abuse.

2 Key Principles of APS

- Self determination:
 - Adults who have *capacity to consent* may refuse assistance
 - *Capacity to consent* means being able to understand the circumstances and consequences of one's situation
- Least restrictive intervention;
 - Consistent with providing needed protection to client

Who's responsibility is it to report abuse?

Everyone is a mandatory reporter.

- Failing to report abuse is a crime.
- There is no penalty for any person who makes a report in good faith.
- The law protects reporters from retaliation.

Most cases of abuse go undetected.
Don't assume that someone has
already reported a suspicious
situation.

Adult Protective Services

**Hotline to report adult abuse,
neglect, or exploitation:**

1.800.898.4910

Hotline to report abuse in a nursing home or
group home call DHH Health Standards:

1-888-810-1819