

courtesy of **Adult Protective Services**

Adult Exploitation is a critical issue that affects Louisiana's most vulnerable members. This resource sheet focuses on specific types of exploitation—human trafficking, unlicensed group homes, financial exploitation, and sexual abuse.

WHAT IS Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking of vulnerable adults is on the rise. Traffickers victimize adults by taking advantage of their conditions and circumstances to take control of their finances, their living arrangements, and their daily activities. Indications of possible human trafficking of vulnerable adults include:

- ✓ The person is disoriented, confused, or showing signs of mental or physical abuse.
- ✓ The person cannot freely contact friends or family.
- ✓ The person is fearful, timid, or overly submissive.
- ✓ The person was forced to perform commercial sexual acts.

HOW ELSE ARE Vulnerable Adults Exploited?

Vulnerable adults are victimized through exploitation of their money and resources. Taking control of bank accounts, disability checks, or property owned by the vulnerable adult are some examples of financial exploitation.

Sexual abuse is another way that traffickers victimize vulnerable adults, especially those unable to give consent or comprehend these actions. Traffickers force vulnerable adults to engage in sexual activities in exchange for financial gain. Traffickers may relocate their victims to avoid suspicion by neighbors, relatives, and others in the communities, and use fear tactics to frighten vulnerable adults into keeping their secrets.

WHAT ARE Unlicensed Group Homes?

Unlicensed group homes are houses in neighborhoods where several unrelated vulnerable adults live together; the homes are not licensed or monitored by any state agency. The owners often take all the income from the adults, do not provide their basic needs such as food, medications, and personal safety, and sometimes use them for physical labor without pay.



Reach out for help if you notice signs of adult exploitation:

If you witness a life-threatening situation involving an adult with disabilities, immediately call 911.

CONTACT **APS** regarding adults ages 18-59:

- ✓ Call 1-800-898-4910 (toll-free) to make a report of abuse at any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- ✓ Scan the QR code or visit https://redcap.link/APS_Online_Reporting_Form to report online.
 - » Note: Reports of physical or sexual abuse ARE NOT allowed to be made online. Please report adult physical or sexual abuse by calling the toll-free APS hotline.



CONTACT **Elderly Protective Services** regarding adults ages 60 and above:

- ✓ Call 1-833-577-6532

CONTACT **Law Enforcement** to report suspected human trafficking activity:

- ✓ Call the Louisiana State Police 24/7 Hotline at 800-434-8007