



courtesy of **Adult Protective Services**



What is physical or sexual abuse of vulnerable adults?

Physical abuse is the injury, unreasonable confinement, intimidation or cruel punishment of an adult with resulting harm or pain. Sexual abuse is the adult is forced, threatened, or otherwise coerced by a person into sexual activity or contact; the adult is involuntarily exposed to sexually explicit material, sexually explicit language, or sexual activity or contact; the adult lacks the capacity to consent, and a person engages in sexual activity or contact with that adult.

What are the signs of physical or sexual abuse?

- ✓ Bruising
- ✓ Unexplained bruising
- ✓ Strangulation
- ✓ Fractures
- ✓ Burns
- ✓ Bed sores
- ✓ Over or under medicating the victim
- ✓ Not wearing appropriate clothing to the weather (such as long sleeves when hot)
- ✓ Controlling access to or the movements of an individual

What are some risk factors? *

- ✓ Family crisis or family members are suffering from stress
- ✓ Domestic issues causing violence or conflict in the home
- ✓ Depression, unusual fears or sudden loss of self-confidence
- ✓ Noticeable withdrawal and lack of socialization
- ✓ Loneliness and isolation

*The presence of warning signs doesn't necessarily mean that the adult is being abused.



CONTACT APS

Reach out to Adult Protective Services if you notice signs of physical or sexual abuse:

- ✓ **If you witness a life-threatening situation, immediately call 911.**
- ✓ Please contact the toll-free APS Hotline at (800) 898-4910 to report abuse.
- ✓ Please note that you can make this report anonymously if you choose, but make sure to provide the following information:
 - » The individual's name and location
 - » Why they are at risk for abuse, self-neglect, neglect, or exploitation
 - » Descriptions of the situation, any important identifiers of the alleged abuser, or other dangers in their home environment

