

How To Report Adult Abuse and Neglect

Any individual may report *known* or *suspected* cases of abuse, neglect, or emergency situations involving an aged and/or disabled adult, including any adult who wishes to make a report on his or her own behalf. There are also certain groups who are required by law to report; these are referred to as mandatory reporters.

Reports of abuse and/or neglect involving an aged and/or disabled adult must be made to the Department of Health and Human Resources. These reports may be made directly to your local Department of Health and Human Resources office during normal business hours (8:30-5:00) or after hours to the 24-hour Hotline that is provided for this purpose: 1-800-352-6513.

Any person who, in good faith, makes a report of abuse, neglect, or emergency situations involving an aged and/or disabled adult will be free from any civil or criminal liability that might arise as a result of making such a report. The person who makes a report is not required to provide his or her name.

You can also report any suspected or known Financial Exploitation to the Attorney General's "Senior Protection Hotline" at 1-866-241-5062.

3/06

West Virginia
Medicaid Aged
& Disabled
Waiver Program

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TERMS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- Abuse**
 - Harm or the threat to harm with physical pain or injury, or the imprisonment of any aged and/or disabled adult.
- Caregiver**
 - An adult who has or shares actual physical charge or care of an aged and/or disabled adult on a full-time or temporary basis. A caregiver can be a health care provider, family member, or any person who accepts a supervisory role for an aged and/or disabled adult.
- Emergency Situation**
 - A situation or set of circumstances that presents an actual risk of death or serious injury to an aged and/or disabled adult.
- Neglect**
 - The failure to provide the necessities of life to an aged and/or disabled adult with the intent to force, threaten, or physically harm the adult, and the unlawful use of, or wasting of, his or her money, property, or other assets.
- Aged and/or Disabled Adult**
 - Any person by reason of physical, mental, or bodily ailment or weakness who is unable to physically carry on the daily activities necessary to support life and reasonable health.

TYPES OF ABUSE & NEGLECT

- Financial Exploitation**
 - The illegal use or wasting of an aged and/or disabled adult's money, property, or other assets by any person, or by anyone who allows this to happen. Financial exploitation places the adult at impending risk of neglect by not having basic needs met.
- Neglect By Others**
 - The failure to provide the necessities of life to an aged and/or disabled adult with the intent to force, threaten, or do physical harm. Neglect by others also includes financial exploitation.
- Physical Abuse**
 - Harm or the threat to harm with physical pain or injury, or the imprisonment of any aged and/or disabled adult.
- Self-Neglect**
 - The aged and/or disabled adult is unable to meet his or her own basic daily living needs.
- Sexual Abuse**
 - The intent to force or threaten an aged and/or disabled adult into having sexual contact with the caregiver or another person. A caregiver could be involved as the sexual partner or could allow the conditions that result in the sexual threat or force.
- Verbal/Emotional Abuse**
 - The threat to cause physical pain or injury to an aged and/or disabled adult, including withholding of food, water, and/or medical treatment. This category also includes the threat of imprisonment, including isolation. Verbal threats must be considered by the aged and/or disabled adult or others to be real. Non-threatening teasing is not considered verbal abuse.