

Types of Abuse

The following list outlines some of the more common types of abuse:

Physical	Direct beatings, lack of medical care, over medication, sexual exploitation.
Abandonment	The adult being cared for is deserted by caregiver.
Isolation	Preventing a dependent adult from receiving mail, telephone calls, and visitors.
Financial	Theft, misuse of funds or property, extortion, duress, fraud
Neglect	Denial of food, clothing, shelter, health care, or unable to provide basic needs.
Self-Neglect	Malnutrition, being unkempt, unmet medical needs, unpaid bills
Mental	Verbal assaults, threats, fear

Possible Signs of Abuse

If you observe some or all of these occurring with an older or disabled adult, alert APS.

- Injury that is inconsistent with the explanation for its cause.
- The elder or dependent adult has recently become confused or disoriented.
- The caregiver shows anger, indifference, and aggressive behavior toward the person.
- Personal belongings, papers, credit cards are missing.
- The caregiver has a history of substance abuse, mental illness, criminal behavior or family violence.
- Lack of necessities such as food, water, utilities, medications, and medical care.
- Another person's name added to the client's bank account or import documents or frequent checks made out to CASH.

Benefits of Reporting Abuse

- The elder or dependent adult will be given options to keep him/her safe from harm.
- The APS worker can link the client, family to needed community resources.
- Unaware family members, friends can be alerted to step in to help.
- The APS worker can find ways to help the caregiver handle stress.
- In some cases, the abuse perpetrator can be prosecuted, lessening the harm to others.
- The reporter feels relief that a professional is assessing the situation.