

Mandated Reporting: Protecting the Vulnerable Adult

The Social Welfare Act requires the reporting of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of an adult by those who are employed, licensed, registered, or certified to provide health care, educational, social welfare, mental health, or other human services; sets forth civil penalties for a mandated reporter's failure to make a report of reasonably suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation of an adult.; and states the civil immunity for a party making a report in good faith.

Should I Report? "When in doubt, report it out"

- ◆ You don't need evidence, just reasonable suspicion.
- ◆ When in doubt about whether to make a report of suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation of an adult, contact our local Adult Protective Service (APS) unit for consultation - Katy Hawthorne, APS Supervisor, 231-327-9864. You can also call Chris Burnaw, SafeSeniors Coordinator at 231-726-7104.

Common Concerns About Reporting

- ◆ I don't want to interfere in someone's family.
 - ⇒ You may be the only person to intervene and ensure the adult's safety.
- ◆ They will know it was me who called.
 - ⇒ APS cannot provide this information without a court order.
- ◆ What I have to say won't make a difference.
 - ⇒ You may never know the difference you will make. Do the right thing anyway.

What will they ask?

- ◆ Name of the adult, and/or legal guardian.
- ◆ Description of suspected abuse or neglect and information that might establish the cause.
- ◆ The who, what, when, where, why and how.
- ◆ Your contact information.

What will APS do?

- ◆ Review the complaint for assignment by Centralized Intake; if assigned, send to the local county.
- ◆ If assigned, a local caseworker begins an investigation and a decision is made within 30-90 days.
- ◆ APS will determine if a guardianship is needed; they will also work on providing necessary resources.

REPORT ABUSE: 855-444-3911 24/7 • *In an emergency, call 9-1-1*



For more information or if you have questions:

Contact SafeSeniors: 231-726-7104 • safeseniors@agewellservices.org

Visit: www.SafeSeniors.info/mandated-reporting