



courtesy of **Adult Protective Services**

What is neglect?

Neglect is harm to an adult's health or welfare caused by the inability of the adult to respond to a harmful situation or by the conduct of a person who assumes responsibility for a significant aspect of the adult's health or welfare.



What are the signs of neglect?

Abandonment

An individual who has duties or obligations that arise through contract, law, or the voluntary assumption of responsibility to provide care, supervision, or services to a vulnerable adult and who unreasonably deserts or withdraws their duties or obligations to the vulnerable adult, resulting in serious harm or serious risk of harm to that vulnerable adult.

Emotional Neglect

Failure to meet the individual's emotional well-being such as providing adequate opportunities to socialize with friends and family and engage in meaningful activities.

Financial Neglect

It involves disregarding a person's financial obligations such as failing to pay rent or mortgage, medical insurance or invoices, utility and garbage bills, property taxes and assessments.

Physical Neglect

Includes failing to attend to a person's medical, hygienic, nutrition and dietary needs, such as dispensing medications, failing to arrange doctors appointments, changing bandages, bathing, grooming, dressing, or failure to provide ample food to maintain health.

What are some risk factors of neglect?

- ✓ Occurrences of failing to provide needed supervision.
- ✓ Cognitive impairment, dementia.
- ✓ Excessive stress or burden on the caregiver.
- ✓ Lack of resources and support for the caregiver.
- ✓ Increase in caregiver responsibilities.
- ✓ Isolation of caregiver and vulnerable adult.

What if I'm not sure?

Do you just have a "feeling" about a situation but can't verify the details? Adult Protective Services (APS) staff are trained to handle this type of situation. Based on your referral, the department will assess the situation and determine how best to respond.



CONTACT APS Reach out to your local APS department if you notice signs of neglect:

- ✓ **If you are in an emergency, please call 911 immediately.**
- ✓ If you suspect abuse, neglect or exploitation, call **855-444-3911** any time day or night to make a referral.
- ✓ Visit <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs> for more information.



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What is self-neglect?

Self-Neglect is a vulnerable adult's refusal of or inability to understand the necessity of and/or arrange for care, goods, or services essential to maintain their health, safety or welfare and prevent harm or an unreasonable risk of harm. Self-neglect includes, but is not limited to, the refusal or inability of the vulnerable adult to obtain goods or services reasonably necessary to maintain physical health, mental health, or emotional well-being, general safety, or managing one's financial assets and obligations.

What are signs of self-neglect?

- ✓ Not going to the doctor.
- ✓ Not taking medication as needed.
- ✓ Lack of food, inadequate nutrition.
- ✓ Unsafe housing conditions.
- ✓ Poor personal hygiene.
- ✓ Unpaid bills.

What are some risk factors of self-neglect?

- ✓ Recent loss of loved one.
- ✓ Unattended medical concerns.
- ✓ Decline in health.
- ✓ Lack of outside contact, isolated from friends and family.
- ✓ Lack of a caregiver.
- ✓ Cognitive impairment, dementia.

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What is abuse?

Abuse is harm or threatened harm to an adult's health or welfare caused by another person. **Emotional abuse** is unreasonable verbal or nonverbal behaviors or any other unreasonable conduct that inflicts unwarranted anguish, mental pain, fear, or distress of a vulnerable adult. **Physical abuse** is the use of non-accidental contact that results in bodily injury, physical pain or suffering.

What are signs of abuse?

- ✓ Unexplained bruising.
- ✓ Threats.
- ✓ Harassment.
- ✓ Insults.
- ✓ Actions that could confuse, frighten or isolate.
- ✓ Fractures.
- ✓ Burns.
- ✓ Bed sores.
- ✓ Improper use of medication.
- ✓ Controlling access to or the movements of an individual.

What are some risk factors?

- ✓ Family crisis or increased stress.
- ✓ History of domestic violence.
- ✓ Loneliness and isolation.
- ✓ Financial issues and/or dependency.
- ✓ Substance use issues.
- ✓ Lack of coping skills.

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What is exploitation?

Exploitation is an action that involves the misuse of an adult's funds, property or personal dignity by another person.

What are signs of financial exploitation?

- ✓ Unusual financial activity (e.g. large bank withdrawal or use of ATMs or credit cards not normally used).
- ✓ Missing checks or missing bank statements/records.
- ✓ Address or names have been changed on accounts.
- ✓ Purchases made without the individual's knowledge or consent.
- ✓ Newly authorized signatures on accounts or forged signatures.
- ✓ Evidence that the person fell victim to a scam.
- ✓ Missing belongings.
- ✓ Change to a financial power of attorney.
- ✓ Change of ownership of bank accounts or the deed to a physical property such as a home.



What are some risk factors of financial exploitation?

- ✓ Excessive spending or financial donations.
- ✓ No oversight of finances.
- ✓ Limited knowledge of technology or modern payment methods.
- ✓ Cognitive impairment or dementia.
- ✓ Social isolation.

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