

# Adult Protective Services

## What is Adult Protective Services (APS)?

Adult Protective Services investigators protect vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect and exploitation by working with mental health, public health, law enforcement, the probate courts, the aging network, community groups, and the public.





## Who does APS serve?

In Michigan, Adult Protective Services assist vulnerable persons aged 18 and older who are unable to take the steps necessary to protect themselves from abuse, neglect or exploitation.

- ✓ Vulnerable Adults.
- ✓ Adults with developmental, physical, or intellectual disabilities.
- ✓ Unable to meet basic daily needs.
- ✓ Isolated, withdrawn from family, friends and social activities.

## How do you define Abuse, Neglect, Self-Neglect, and Exploitation?

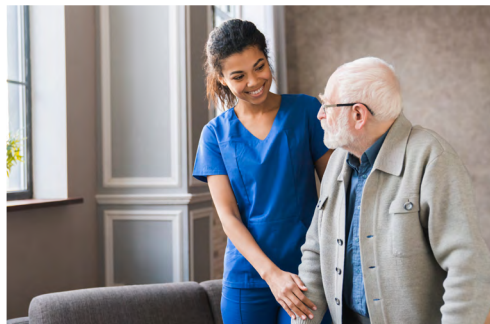
Below are some common definitions. Please check <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs> for more information.

Abuse 	Neglect 	Self-Neglect 	Exploitation 
Abuse is harm or threatened harm to an adult's health or welfare caused by another person.	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.	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.	Exploitation is an action that involves the misuse of an adult's funds, property, or personal dignity by another person.

## Who are Mandated Reporters?

If you are a part of any of the professions listed below, you may have a legal obligation to report any suspicions regarding vulnerable adults who you believe have been harmed or are at risk of harm from abuse, neglect or exploitation.

- ✓ Physicians
- ✓ Nurses
- ✓ Psychologists
- ✓ Hospital Administrators and Staff
- ✓ Investment Advisors
- ✓ Teachers
- ✓ Social Workers
- ✓ Law Enforcement Officers
- ✓ Michigan Bank and Credit Union Staff
- ✓ Broker-Dealers



## Why are Mandated Reporters required to report?

Mandated reporters, together with APS, play an important role in helping vulnerable adults live free of abuse and neglect. For that reason, mandated reporters are required to report incidents to APS. Failure to report may lead to fines or other consequences.



## How do you make a referral to APS?

- 1 Contact APS using the information below.
- 2 Make sure to provide the following information:
  - ✓ The individual's name, address, estimated age, or other identifying information.
  - ✓ Why you believe they are at risk for abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or exploitation.
  - ✓ Descriptions of the situation, any important identifiers of the alleged abuser, or other dangers in their home environment.



## What happens after reporting?

APS will investigate the suspected abuse, neglect, self-neglect or exploitation, and connect the individual with support services if they choose to receive them.

We understand that every adult has the right to self-determination; APS cannot make anyone accept help if they do not wish to receive it. We also cannot control whether law enforcement opens an investigation. Due to APS investigations being confidential, we may not be able to provide you with the details of the investigation.

## What if I'm not sure?

Do you just have a "feeling" about a situation but can't verify the details? 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 Information

- ✓ **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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