

## ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

The goal of Adult Protective Services is to assist vulnerable persons age 18 and older who are unable to take the steps necessary to protect themselves from abuse, neglect or exploitation.

**Abuse** is harm or threatened harm to an adult's health or welfare caused by another person. Abuse may be physical, sexual or emotional.

**Neglect** is harm to an adult's health or welfare caused by:

- The inability of the adult to respond to a harmful situation (self-neglect).
- The conduct of another person who has accepted responsibility for a significant aspect of the adult's health or welfare.

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

**Vulnerable** is a condition in which an adult is unable to protect himself or herself from abuse, neglect or exploitation because of a mental or physical impairment or because of advanced age.

## WHOM DOES APS SERVE?

Adults most likely to need protective services are often:

- Elderly.
- Developmentally disabled.
- Physically disabled.
- Intellectually disabled.
- Unable to meet basic, daily needs.
- Isolated, withdrawn from family, friends and social activities.



## Developing a Caring Community

A caring community is concerned for and aware of the needs of vulnerable adults. It accepts and embraces the responsibility to notify APS when it is aware of a vulnerable person in need of protection.

## SERVICES PROVIDED/ REFERRED TO ADULTS

Services provided through APS vary based on the need of the adult. APS responds to the specific needs of adults by providing or referring the adult for the following services:

- Protection.
  - Protective services investigation.
  - Social protection.
  - Financial management.
  - Conservatorship/guardianship/mental health hospitalization.
- Counseling.
- Education and training.
- Family-centered planning.
- Health-related needs.
- Home help.
- Homemaking.
- Housing assistance.
- Information and referral.
- Money management.
- Volunteer services.

## LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY

The **Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.11b**, gives the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) the responsibility to provide adult protective services (APS) to vulnerable adults at risk of harm. MDHHS is required to "... commence an investigation to determine whether the person suspected of being or believed to be abused, neglected or exploited is an adult in need of protective services."

Based upon the findings of the investigation, the department is to "... make available to the adult the appropriate and least restrictive protective services... and take necessary action to safeguard and enhance the welfare of the adult, if possible."

The **Michigan Penal Code, MCL 750.145 et seq.**, among other things, prohibits harm of a vulnerable adult by a caregiver or other person with authority over the adult and establishes penalties for a caregiver or person with authority over a vulnerable adult who interferes with an APS investigation.

**MCL 750.174a** prohibits and provides penalties for the financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult.

To make a report about a vulnerable adult you believe is in need of protective intervention, contact:

**Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Centralized Intake for Abuse and Neglect:**

**1-855-444-3911**

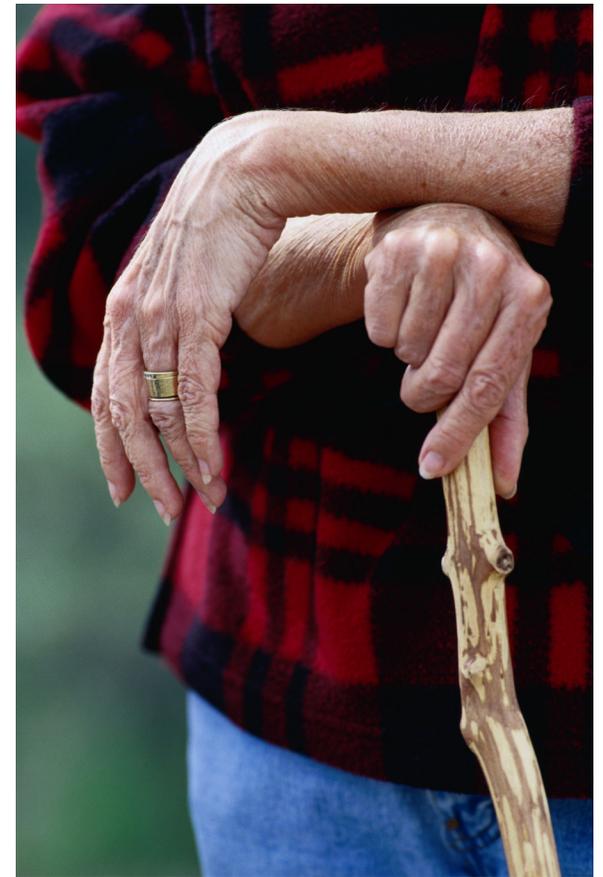
If you would like more information about the APS program, contact your local MDHHS office listed below or look in the white pages of your local telephone directory and ask to speak with an adult services worker or supervisor. **Reports must be made to the number above.**



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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