

**GREENVILLE COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL  
SERVICES**

**ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES**

**467-7750**



The Greenville County Department of Social Services, Adult Protective Services Unit works with adults who are vulnerable. The definition of a vulnerable adult is:

***“Anyone who is 18 yrs and older who has a physical or mental condition which impairs them from adequately providing for their own care and protection.”***

# THE PROCESS OF MAKING A REPORT TO APS:

When a call is made to Adult Protective Services (APS) by an individual or agency who believes that a person has been neglected, abuse, exploited, or self-neglected; the call is given to our Intake Specialist.

The Intake Specialist interviews the caller to obtain pertinent information regarding the allegation. It is helpful to have the following information available if at all possible regarding the adult.

- Name
- Address
- Date of Birth
- Social Security Number
- Who lives in the household
- Detailed information regarding how the person is vulnerable.
- Details about the allegation



The supervisor and the Intake Specialist will discuss the phone call and decide if the situation and circumstance meets the requirement for APS to take the report.

If the information provided does not meet the requirement for an APS report the intake worker or supervisor will call the reporter back and may be able to provide information on other community resources.



Once the report is accepted, it is then assigned to an Investigator/Case Manager for further investigation. The initial contact on a report has to be made within the following time frames:

- 24 hours if it is an allegation of Abuse
- 48 hours for an allegation of Exploitation or Neglect by another person
- 72 hours for an allegation of Self-Neglect.

# Abuse:

**...Physical abuse means intentionally inflicting or allowing to be inflicted physical injury on a vulnerable adult by an act or failure to act.**

**Physical abuse includes, but it not limited to, slapping, hitting, kicking, biting, choking, pinching, burning, actual or attempted sexual battery as defined in S.C. Code Section 16-3-651, use of medication outside the standards of reasonable medical practice for the purpose of controlling behavior, and unreasonable confinement. Physical abuse also includes the use of a restrictive or physically intrusive procedure to control behavior for the purpose of punishment except that a therapeutic procedure prescribed by a licensed physician**

*Acts of Sexual Abuse or Psychological Abuse are also assessed by the Department.*

# NEGLECT:

The failure or omission of a caregiver to provide the care, goods, or services necessary to maintain the health or safety of a vulnerable adult including, but not limited to, food, clothing, medicine, shelter, pets, supervision, and medical services. It may be repeated conduct or a single incident which has produced or can be proven to result in serious physical or psychological harm or substantial risk of death.

# SELF-NEGLECT or NEGLECT:

This may result in starvation, dehydration, over or under medication, unsanitary living conditions or lack of heat, running water, electricity, lack of medical care and personal hygiene.

# EXPLOITATION:

Taking the resources of an elderly, or disabled person for personal monetary benefit or gain.

This includes taking social security or SSI (Supplementary Security Income) checks, abusing a joint checking account, and taking property and other resources without prior authorization.



Exploitation also comes in the form of household utilities such as telephone, gas, and electric not being paid in a timely manner, constantly late, or not paid at all.

Another indication of this is when Social Security or SSI checks are completely depleted by the end of the first week of the month.

# Indicators List

*The following are a checklist of signs that the case worker looks for when assessing a case for abuse or neglect.*

- New and unexplained bruises, cuts, and burns
- Inconsistent or implausible explanations for injuries
- Untreated injuries
- Unattended or untreated health needs
- Bruises in various stages of healing
- Lacerations
- Pinch marks, skin tears, puncture wounds
- Broken bones, fractures
- Bite marks, black eyes, swollen eyes

- Bleeding under scalp
- Missing patch of hair
- Signs of confinement, rope marks
- Bloody clothing
- Poor hygiene
- Broken eyeglasses/frames
- Missing eyeglasses, dentures, hearing aids
- Malnutrition
- Dehydration
- Incontinence, soiled clothing
- Pressure ulcers
- Overmedication or sedation

- Under medication
- Fear, paranoid references
- Flinching or drawing away when approached
- Fearful when approached by caregiver
- Withdrawal
- Low self-esteem, doubts his/her sanity
- Isolation
- Disorientation, confusion
- Embarrassment
- Depression, sadness, crying, talks about suicide
- Anger

- Agitation, anxiety
- Apathy, passivity, resignation
- Hesitation to talk openly, reluctant to discuss home life
- Non-responsive
- Sudden change in behavior
- Change in appetite
- Sleep disturbances
- Caregiver's refusal to allow visitors to see vulnerable adult alone

IF YOU HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT A VULNERABLE ADULT IN THE COMMUNITY IS BEING ABUSED, NEGLECTED, OR EXPLOITED, CONTACT ***ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES*** IN THE COUNTY WHERE THE VULNERABLE ADULT RESIDES. FOR GREENVILLE COUNTY CALL 467-7750.



**DSS**

*Serving Children and Families*