

**Adult Protective
Services Activities
Include:**

- *Making a face to face, unannounced visit to the adult with a disability.*
- *Evaluating the need for protective services.*
- *Working with the adult, family, and multi-disciplinary providers (if necessary) to secure needed essential services for the adult such as food, safe housing or medical care.*
- *Planning with and supporting the disabled or elderly adult and the family or caregiver to identify, remedy and prevent problems that result in abuse, neglect, or exploitation.*
- *Reporting evidence of mistreatment to the District Attorney and regulatory agencies; court action is initiated as necessary to protect the adult with a disability.*

Warning Signs of Elder Abuse

Sudden changes in behavior or finances

Physical injuries, dehydration, or malnourishment

Extrême withdrawal, depression, or anxiety

Absence of basic care or necessities

Kept away from others

Unsanitary living conditions

Personal items missing

SPEAK UP FOR ELDERLY & DISABLED!

You do not need to prove that abuse is occurring. It is up to the professionals to investigate your suspicions.

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Department of
Social Services**

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STOKES
COUNTY
DEPARTMENT
OF
SOCIAL
SERVICES

**ADULT
PROTECTIVE
SERVICES**

MISSION:
To keep Stokes
County's most
vulnerable adults
safe from abuse,
neglect, and
exploitation.

WHEN I SUSPECT ABUSE, NEGLECT, OR EXPLOITATION, WHAT CAN I DO?

- When you suspect mistreatment of an older adult or an adult with a disability, NC law requires you to contact Adult Protective Services (APS) at the Department of Social Services (DSS) in the county where the adult is living. You can find contact information for all county DSS's listed at this website:

<http://www.dhhs.gov/dss/local>

- When you call DSS to make an APS report, your name is kept confidential unless a court of law orders disclosure.
- Give as much information as you know about the abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Your concern is taken very seriously and it may help to protect someone.
- The main objective is to determine if the adult needs protection. The APS intake worker is required to take the report from you, assure confidentiality, explain what happens once your report is taken, and ask if you want to be notified by phone or mail about your report.



IS THIS HAPPENING TO YOU OR SOMONE YOU KNOW?

- Unexplained bruises, burns, cuts, scratches
- Sprains, fractures, dislocations, malnutrition
- Untreated medical condition(s)
- Unsafe or unsanitary living conditions
- Lack of medications, hearing aids, glasses, or dentures
- Mental anguish and distress
- Mistrust towards others
- Unpaid utility and other bills
- Mismanaged property or savings
- Sudden change in will or power of attorney
- Unable to provide needed care



DEFINITIONS

Abuse: Abuse is the willful infliction of physical pain, injury, mental anguish, unreasonable confinement or willful deprivation by a caretaker of services, which are necessary to maintain mental and physical health.

Exploitation: Exploitation is the illegal or improper use of the disabled adult or his resources for another's profit or advantage.

Self Neglect: When a disabled adult lives alone or has no caretaker and is not able to provide necessary services to maintain his/her mental and physical health.

Caretaker Neglect: Failure of the caretaker to provide services necessary to maintain the physical or mental health of the disabled adult.

It is important to note that the most basic tenant of Adult Protective Services is the right to self-determination. This means that as long as the adult can recognize the consequences of decisions they have made about their lives, their right to make those decisions must be respected.