

Protection for Those Reporting

Individuals reporting are protected two ways:

- Immunity from civil and criminal liability if the report is made in good faith.
- The identity of the person reporting and the information gathered is confidential and not available to the public.

What are the penalties by law for conviction of abuse or neglect?

- Persons convicted of abuse or neglect of an incapacitated adult shall be guilty of a Class I misdemeanor.
- Persons convicted of a second or subsequent offense shall be guilty of a Class 6 Felony under Section 18.2-369 of the Code of Virginia.

Report Suspected Abuse

Report suspected incidents of abuse, neglect or exploitation of an adult to one of the following 24 hour numbers:

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES**
703.746.5778
Virginia Relay 711

STATE HOTLINE | 1.888.832.3858



Division of Aging
and Adult Services
4850 Mark Center Drive, Floor 9
Alexandria, VA 22311
703.746.5999
alexandriava.gov/Aging
Email: DAAS@alexandriava.gov

Adult Protective Services



**Department of
Community and
Human Services**

703.746.5999
alexandriava.gov/DCHS

Adult Protective Services

What is Adult Protective Services (APS)?

These are services that the Division of Aging and Adult Services is mandated to provide for adults who are being abused, neglected or exploited and who are:

- 18 years or older and have a physical or mental disability or
- 60 years or older*

Protective Services to adults consist of the receipt and prompt investigation of reports of suspected abuse, neglect and exploitation. This includes assessing and documenting adults' service needs and providing or arranging for the services.

Adults receiving protective services may live in their own homes, with relatives, in nursing homes, homes for adults, hospitals or group care facilities.

*Under Section 63.1-55.1 Code of Virginia

Defining Terms

Abuse means the willful infliction of physical pain, injury or mental anguish or unreasonable confinement. Examples include:

- pushing, striking or slapping
- improper use of physical restraint or medication
- verbal berating, harassment or intimidation
- sexual coercion or assault

Neglect refers to nonexistent or insufficient care and supports necessary to maintain a person's physical and/or mental health to the extent that his or her well-being is impaired or threatened, and may include:

- withholding health maintenance care including adequate meals or fluids
- failing to provide safety precautions
- leaving a vulnerable adult alone for long periods
- self-neglect that threatens the adult's health or safety

Exploitation is the illegal use of an incapacitated adult or his or her resources for another's profit or advantage. This includes:

- coercing the adult into signing contracts
- stealing the adult's money or possessions
- charging exorbitant prices for services
- unauthorized transfer of property, savings or other resources

Reporting

Who reports suspected incidents of adult abuse, neglect or exploitation?

Anyone can report.

Mandated reporters are required by law to report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation of older adults or adults with a disability immediately to the Division of Aging and Adult Services.

Sexual abuse must be reported immediately to the Division of Aging and Adult Services and to the local law enforcement agency.

Mandated reporters include:

- physicians, including hospital residents and interns
- persons in the nursing profession
- persons employed by a public or private agency or facility and who work with adults
- persons providing full-time or part-time care to adults for pay on a regular basis
- mental health professionals
- law enforcement officers