

WHO MUST REPORT?

Physicians or other licensed health care providers

Mental health professionals including licensed marital and family therapists

Pharmacists

Nursing home, residential care, and health care facility administrators

Guardians and Conservators

Police Officers

Village Public Safety Officers

Village Health Aids

Social Workers

Members of the Clergy

Personal Care Attendant

Home Health Aide

Emergency Medical Technician or Paramedic

Caregiver of Vulnerable Adults

Certified Nurses Aide

Employees of service grant agencies funded by the Department of Administration for the provision of services to older Alaskans, the Department of Health and Social Services, and the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

ANY PERSON MAY REPORT.

DESIGNATIONS OF OTHERS TO PROVIDE PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Alaska law authorizes the Division of Senior Services to designate and train other state agencies, community service providers, or individuals to provide protective services.

Guiding Principles of Adult Protection

- When interests compete, the adult client is the person we are charged to serve; not the community concerned about safety, the landlords concerned about property, citizens concerned about crime or morality, families concerned about their own health or finances.
- When interests compete, the adult client is in charge of decision-making until she or he voluntarily delegates responsibility to another or the court grants responsibility to another.
- Freedom is more important than safety. The person can choose to live in harm or even self-destructively provided she or he has the capacity to choose, does not harm others, and commits no crime.
- In the ideal case, protection of adults seeks to achieve simultaneously, and in order of importance: freedom, safety, least disruption of life-style and least restrictive care alternative.

**To obtain copies of
Alaska Statute 47.24.010-.900.**

**Contact the
Division of Senior and
Disabilities Services**

at 1-800-478-9996
or 269-3666 in Anchorage

State of Alaska Adult Protective Services



Program Information

Legal Rights Services

Div. of Senior and Disabilities Services
Department of Health & Social Services
550 W. 8th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99501

1-800-478-9996

Anchorage: 269-3666

Fax: 269-3648

Fairbanks

451-3187

Fax: 451-3186

Juneau

465-4791

Fax: 465-4665

www.hss.state.ak.us/dsds/aps.htm

RIGHTS OF VULNERABLE ADULTS

- Right to expect that information about one will be shared only on a need to know basis and only as necessary to insure that one can receive coordinated services and protection.
- Right to give informed consent in accepting services.
- Right to have services delivered in the least restrictive manner that meets one's needs.
- Right to voluntarily accept or reject services except where the vulnerable adult lacks decision making capacity, is unable to consent, or is incapacitated.
- Right to receive assistance through utilizing family and other informal support systems.
- Right to all possible alternatives to formal legal action in the form of guardianship or conservatorship except where decision making capacity is lacking or protection of the adult requires it.

WHAT IS ADULT PROTECTION?

SERVICES THAT PREVENT OR STOP HARM FROM OCCURRING TO VULNERABLE ADULTS

Alaska law requires that protective services not interfere with the elderly or disabled adults who are capable of caring for themselves.

Vulnerable adults have a physical or mental impairment or condition that prevents them from protecting themselves or from seeking help from someone else. Alaska law defines vulnerable adults to include adults 18 years of age or older, not just the elderly.

The harm they suffer may result from abandonment, abuse, exploitation, neglect or self-neglect.

ABANDONMENT is the desertion of a vulnerable adult by a caregiver.

ABUSE is the intentional or reckless non-accidental non-therapeutic infliction of pain, injury, or mental distress, or sexual assault.

EXPLOITATION is the unjust or improper use of another person or their resources for one's own benefit.

NEGLECT is the intentional failure of caregiver to provide essential services.

SELF-NEGLECT is the act or omission by a vulnerable adult that results, or could result in the deprivation of essential services necessary to maintain minimal mental, emotional, or physical health and safety.

See Alaska Statute 47.24.010.900
(Amended 1994)

EXAMPLES OF SERVICES

Information and Referral
Investigation of Reports
Protective Placement
Guardianship/Conservatorship Counseling
Care Coordination
Training and designation
of local community resources
to provide services.

WHAT MUST BE REPORTED?

Any incident in which a vulnerable adult suffers harm from abandonment, exploitation, abuse, neglect, or self neglect. If in doubt, make the report.

MAKE REPORTS TO WHOM?

Reports can be made to the central reporting number for the Division of Senior Services within 24 hours at 1-800-478-9996. Reports can be made to local law enforcement agencies in the event that a report cannot be made to the Division. Local law enforcement agencies are mandated to investigate and take appropriate action to protect vulnerable adults.

IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY

Persons who make reports in good faith are immune from liability and protected by law from retaliation.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF REPORT

Investigation reports and reports of the abandonment, abuse, exploitation, neglect, or self-neglect of a vulnerable adult are confidential and are not subject to public inspection and copying.

Investigation reports may be used by appropriate agencies or individuals inside and outside the state in connection with investigations or judicial proceedings involving the abandonment, abuse, exploitation, neglect, or self-neglect of a vulnerable adult.

Individuals who report abandonment, abuse, exploitation, neglect, or self-neglect of a vulnerable adult may remain anonymous.