

Guide for Reporting Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of Disabled Adults

The NC Law Applies to Disabled Adults...

who might be abused, neglected or exploited and might be in need of protective services

Definitions and Indicators

Disabled Adult:

Over 18 and physically or mentally incapacitated.

Common Behavioral Indicators

Avoidance of eye contact Hesitance to talk openly
Change in appetite or sleep patterns Radical change in behavior
Confusion Suspicious or paranoid behavior
Depression..... Withdrawal

Caretaker:

Anyone who has responsibility for the care of an adult by family relationship, contract or who voluntarily assumes the responsibility.

Abuse:

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.

Indicators:

Unusual and unexplained bruises, welts, fractures and bumps:
In various states of healing
In shape of an object (rope, belt, restraints, electric bumer)
Bed sores, weight loss or dry skin and lips
Clothing inappropriate for temperature and conditions
Inadequate shelter or medical care
Excessive sweating or chills
Willful confinement In a dangerous environment

Self Neglect:

Disabled adult who lives alone or has no caretaker and is not able to provide necessary services to maintain his/her mental and physical health.

Indicators:

Forgetfulness in or turning off stove or gas
Aimless wandering at night
Inability to cook, eat, bathe, toilet, dress or care for one's self
Unusual thinness, dehydration
Causing small fires
Living in an unsafe dwelling or environment
Inappropriate use of medications
Inability to communicate

Caretaker Neglect:

Failure of the caretaker to provide services necessary to avoid physical harm, mental anguish or mental illness to the disabled adult.

Indicators:

Failure to provide adequate food, shelter, clothing and attention to personal and incidental needs
Failure by caretaker to provide or for medical needs
Failure to manage resources to meet needs
Failure to provide a safe living situation
Failure to provide appropriate supervision

Exploitation:

Illegal or improper use of the disabled adult or his resources for another's profit or advantage.

Indicators:

Unexplained withdrawal of money from bank accounts
Use of deceit, treachery or coercion to obtain money or assets
Inappropriate sexual activity
Unusual interest by anyone In the disabled adult's assets
Difference between assets and lifestyle
Unusually large payment for services
Mismanagement of person's funds (failure to pay for essential services)



It is important to protect the vulnerable members of our community.
When you see abuse **SPEAK UP!**

- S**udden changes in behavior or finances
- P**hysical injuries, dehydration, or malnourishment
- E**xtrême withdrawal, depression or anxiety
- A**bsence of basic health care or necessities
- K**ept away from others
- U**nsanitary living conditions
- P**ersonal items or resources missing

**WHEN IN DOUBT...
 MAKE A REPORT**

BUNCOMBE COUNTY

- Health & Human Services:828-250-5800
- Sheriff's Office:828-250-6670
- Asheville Police Department:828-252-1110
- Biltmore Forest Police Department:828-274-0822
- Black Mountain Police Department:828-419-9350
- Weaverville Police Department:.....828-645-5700
- Woodfin Police Department:.....828-253-4889

HENDERSON COUNTY

- Social Services:828-694-6241
- Sheriff's Office:828-697-4596

MADISON COUNTY

- Social Services:828-649-2711
- Sheriff's Office:828-649-2721

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

- Social Services:828-884-3174
- Sheriff's Office:828-884-3188

If you have any reason to believe an elder or adult with disabilities is being abused, neglected, or exploited then you are required by NC law to make a report.