

Tennessee Adult Protective Services

Are you aware of the signs of abuse and neglect? Do you know how to report this to the Department of Human Services? If you suspect something, speak up about it! Help our veteran population in all aspects!

Neglect occurs when the basic needs of a dependent adult are not met by a caregiver. Neglect may be:

- Unintentional or intentional lack of ability to provide or arrange for the care or services the adult requires.
- Self-Neglect occurs when a dependent adult is unable to care for him/herself or to obtain needed care.
- Abuse (physical, sexual, and emotional) generally involves more extreme forms of harm to the adult, including the infliction of pain, injury, mental anguish, unreasonable confinement, or other cruel treatment.
- Financial Exploitation occurs when a caregiver improperly uses funds intended for the care or use of the adult. These are funds paid to the adult or to the caregiver by a governmental agency.

Adult Protective Services

Adult Protective Services staff investigate reports of abuse, neglect (including self-neglect) or financial exploitation of adults who are unable to protect themselves due to a physical or mental limitation. APS staff assess the need for protective services and provide services to reduce the identified risk to the adult.

Tenn. Code Ann. § 71-6-103 (b)(1)

“Any person, including, but not limited to, a physician, nurse, social worker, department personnel, coroner, medical examiner, alternate care facility employee, or caretaker, having reasonable cause to suspect that an adult has suffered abuse, neglect, or exploitation, shall report or cause reports to be made in accordance with this part. Death of the adult does not relieve one of the responsibility for reporting the circumstances surrounding the death.”

Your report to APS is confidential

Your report is confidential, and it is not subject to public release under the Open Records Act. The law provides for immunity from civil or criminal liabilities for innocent persons who report even unfounded suspicions, as long as your report is made in good faith. Your identity is kept confidential.

Report:

Call Toll Free 1-888-APS-TENN (1-888-277-8366)

Online: <https://reportadultabuse.dhs.tn.gov/>