IMPORTANT: SSIS 16.2 will launch the Structured Decision Making (SDM) tools for Adult Protection June 27-28. SDM tools and reports will no longer be available on the https://aps.sdmdata.org/mn/training/.

The Intake and Safety assessment modules are fully integrated in Social Services Information System (SSIS) under “Decision Tools”.

The Emergency Protective Services (EPS) Intake Assessment, Strengths and Needs Assessment/Reassessment and Safety Plan are printable external documents.
Paper documents should be completed, scanned and uploaded to SSIS as attached documents. The Adult Protection SDM Manual contains policy regarding use of the tool and a quick guide to Guidelines and Procedures on page 9.

UPCOMING SDM TOOL ENHANCEMENTS:
Business rules which creates stops for supervisor approval and errors and refinement to overrides will be added in the 16.3 launch. Integration of EPS Intake and the Strengths and Needs assessments are planned for a future launch.

BACKGROUND:
In 2009, six Minnesota counties collaborated with the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) on the development of a standardized structured decision making (SDM) tool for use by adult protection staff. Counties involved in development of the tool were Dakota, Hennepin, Olmsted, Ramsey, Steele and Washington. The 2013 Minnesota Legislature made revisions to the Vulnerable Adult Act (VAA) requiring counties use a standardized tool in carrying out duties under the VAA, effective August 1, 2013. Required use of the SDM supported the state’s policy requiring investigation of reports of suspected maltreatment and the provision of protective services in appropriate cases. Research demonstrates that the use of structured frameworks results in more reliable, accurate and consistent decisions than professional judgment alone.

Additional refinements were made to the tool prior to 16.2 SSIS integration based on county feedback from a 2015 post one year implementation survey and to further customize the tool for consistency with current Minnesota Statutes. Decisions resulting from the tool conform to Minnesota Statutes 626.557 and Minnesota Statutes 626.5572. The tool provides documentation of decisions made by Adult Protection. Use of the tool guides professionals through duties of the county to assess EPS notifications and reports of suspected adult maltreatment received from the Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center (MAARC), offer emergency and continuing protective services, prevent further maltreatment and safeguard the welfare of the vulnerable adult who is the subject of the report. SDM tools are also used to conduct intake for requests for coordination and
assistance in the provisions of adult protective services from another lead investigative agency (LIA).

Statutory Reference:

Minnesota Statutes 626.557

Subd. 10. Duties of county social service agency.

(a) When the common entry point refers a report to the county social service agency as the lead investigative agency or makes a referral to the county social service agency for emergency adult protective services, or when another lead investigative agency requests assistance from the county social service agency for adult protective services, the county social service agency shall immediately assess and offer emergency and continuing protective social services for purposes of preventing further maltreatment and for safeguarding the welfare of the maltreated vulnerable adult. The county shall use a standardized tool made available by the commissioner. The information entered by the county into the standardized tool must be accessible to the Department of Human Services. In cases of suspected sexual abuse, the county social service agency shall immediately arrange for and make available to the vulnerable adult appropriate medical examination and treatment. When necessary in order to protect the vulnerable adult from further harm, the county social service agency shall seek authority to remove the vulnerable adult from the situation in which the maltreatment occurred. The county social service agency may also investigate to determine whether the conditions which resulted in the reported maltreatment place other vulnerable adults in jeopardy of being maltreated and offer protective social services that are called for by its determination.

Subd. 9b. Response to reports.

Law enforcement is the primary agency to conduct investigations of any incident in which there is reason to believe a crime has been committed. Law enforcement shall initiate a response immediately. If the common entry point notified a county agency for emergency adult protective services, law enforcement shall cooperate with that county agency when both agencies are involved and shall exchange data to the extent authorized in subdivision 12b, paragraph (g). County adult protection shall initiate a response immediately. Each lead investigative agency shall complete the investigative process for reports within its jurisdiction. A lead investigative agency, county, adult protective agency, licensed facility, or law enforcement agency shall cooperate with other agencies in the provision of protective services, coordinating its investigations, and assisting another agency within the limits of its resources and expertise and shall exchange data to the extent authorized in subdivision 12b, paragraph (g). The lead investigative agency shall obtain the results of any investigation conducted by law enforcement officials. The lead investigative agency has the right to enter facilities and inspect and copy records as part of investigations. The lead investigative agency has access to not public data, as defined in section 13.02, and medical records under sections 144.291 to 144.298, that are maintained by facilities to the extent necessary to conduct its investigation. Each lead investigative agency shall develop guidelines for prioritizing reports for investigation.
Adult protection supervisors and workers are encouraged to review the tools, policy and SSIS screen shots included in the manual in advance of the launch:

Adult Protection SDM Manual
https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-6762A-ENG

Emergency Protective Services Intake Assessment Screening Decision Tool
https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-6762B-ENG

Adult Protection Structured Decision Making Safety Plan to Address Current Danger Factors
https://edcos.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-6762C-ENG

Adult Protection SDM Strengths and needs Assessment/reassessment
https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-6762D-ENG