

## Adult protection

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Legal authority	Minn. Stat. §626.557, Minn. Stat. §626.5572, Minn. Stat. §402A.10	
Definitions	<p><b>Adult protection:</b> An essential human services program provided by a county/tribal nation or service delivery authority. Adult protection includes investigation and protection response to reports of suspected abuse, neglect or financial exploitation of vulnerable adults.</p> <p><b>Vulnerable adult (VA):</b> A person age 18 or older who meets one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is a resident of a facility licensed by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) or DHS.</li> <li>• Receives services from a provider licensed by MDH or DHS</li> <li>• Receives personal care assistance (PCA) or Community First Services and Supports (CFSS) services.</li> <li>• Has an impairment that makes the person unable to meet their basic needs and protect themselves from harm.</li> </ul> <p><b>Common entry point:</b> Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center (MAARC) is the 24/7 state-centralized common entry point (CEP) designated for reporting suspected maltreatment of a vulnerable adult. MAARC operates under DHS.</p> <p><b>Mandated reporter:</b> Professionals required to report suspected maltreatment of a vulnerable adult. Mandated reporters include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social service professionals.</li> <li>• Law enforcement.</li> <li>• Educators.</li> <li>• Professionals who care for vulnerable adults.</li> <li>• Providers licensed by DHS or MDH.</li> <li>• Enrolled Medical Assistance (MA) providers.</li> <li>• Medical examiners or coroners.</li> <li>• Lead investigative agencies.</li> </ul> <p><b>Lead investigative agency (LIA):</b> Primary administrative agency responsible for responding to MAARC reports using prioritization guides for investigation. The LIA is determined by the relationship between the alleged perpetrator and a licensed service. LIAs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counties.</li> <li>• Office of the Inspector General.</li> <li>• Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Office of Health Facility Complaints.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Only county and tribal agencies are responsible for offering <a href="#">adult protective services</a>.</p>	
Types of maltreatment	<p><b>Emotional abuse</b> Emotional abuse is conduct that produces or could reasonably be expected to produce emotional distress. This includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of repeated or malicious oral, written or gestured language toward a vulnerable adult.</li> <li>• Treatment of a vulnerable adult that a reasonable person would consider disparaging, derogatory, humiliating, harassing or threatening.</li> </ul> <p><b>Financial exploitation</b> Financial exploitation includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use, theft, possession or control of funds or property of a vulnerable adult through undue influence, harassment, duress, deception or fraud.</li> <li>• Forcing, compelling or enticing a vulnerable adult to perform services for the</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• profit or advantage of another.</li> </ul> <p><b>Neglect</b> Neglect is the failure by a caregiver to provide a vulnerable adult with care or services including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food.</li> <li>• Clothing.</li> <li>• Shelter.</li> <li>• Health care.</li> <li>• Supervision necessary for the vulnerable adult’s physical/mental health or safety.</li> </ul> <p><b>Physical abuse</b> Physical abuse is conduct that produces or could reasonably be expected to produce physical pain, injury or emotional distress. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criminal assault.</li> <li>• Hitting, slapping, kicking, pinching, burning or biting.</li> <li>• Punishment.</li> </ul> <p>Physical abuse could also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restraints.</li> <li>• Unreasonable confinement.</li> <li>• Involuntary seclusion or forced separation of the vulnerable adult from a person of their choice.</li> </ul> <p><b>Self-neglect</b> Self-neglect occurs when a vulnerable adult does not meet needs for the food, shelter, clothing, healthcare or supervision necessary to maintain or attain their health.</p> <p><b>Sexual abuse</b> Sexual abuse is contact or interaction of a sexual nature by a licensed provider involving a vulnerable adult, contact or interaction of a sexual nature with a vulnerable adult unable to give informed consent or when this conduct occurs without the vulnerable adult’s informed consent. This includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rape.</li> <li>• Fondling or caressing.</li> <li>• Penetration or attempted penetration.</li> <li>• Sexual utilization of the vulnerable adult for gratification of others.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Reporting suspected maltreatment</b></p>	<p><b>Mandated reporters</b> Mandated reporters are required to report suspected maltreatment of a vulnerable adult immediately with the <a href="#">online MAARC Mandated Reporter Form</a> or by calling MAARC at 1-844-880-1574.</p> <p><b>General public</b> The public can report suspected maltreatment by calling MAARC at 1-844-880-1574.</p>
<p><b>Adult protective services</b></p>	<p>Adult protective services (APS) are provided by counties and tribal nations to safeguard a vulnerable adult who is the subject of a MAARC report. Counties and tribal nations offer APS in the least restrictive manner.</p> <p>APS includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offering and arranging healthcare, supervision and social services to prevent further maltreatment, serious injury, loss of health or death of a vulnerable adult.</li> <li>• Seeking authority to remove a vulnerable adult.</li> <li>• Seeking a restraining order.</li> <li>• Arranging for the appointment or replacement of a guardian or conservator.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arranging for a sexual assault examination.</li> </ul>
<b>Training</b>	<p>The Vulnerable Adults Mandated Training course introduces you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center (MAARC).</li> <li>• Definitions of maltreatment.</li> <li>• Vulnerable Adults Act.</li> <li>• Definition of mandated reporters.</li> </ul> <p><b>Accessing the training</b></p> <p><b>DHS and county/tribal nation employees</b> Go to <a href="#">TrainLink</a> to register for the online course. For instructions, refer to <a href="#">Vulnerable Adult Mandated Reporting Online Training flier (PDF)</a>.</p> <p><b>Providers, healthcare professionals and other interested parties</b> The online course is available for free and without registration. Refer to <a href="#">Vulnerable Adults Mandated Training</a> to take the course.</p>
<b>Additional resources</b>	<p><b>Manuals/guides</b></p> <p><a href="#">APS Structured Decision Making and Standardized Tools – Guidelines and Procedure Manual, DHS-6762 (PDF)</a></p> <p><a href="#">DHS Adult Protection Manual, DHS-6917 (PDF)</a></p> <p><a href="#">MAARC VA-CEP Web-based Reporting Guide, DHS-5722E (PDF)</a></p> <p><b>CBSM pages</b></p> <p><a href="#">CBSM – Ombudsman services</a></p> <p><a href="#">CBSM – Vulnerable adults (VA) targeted case management.</a></p> <p><b>Other resources</b></p> <p><a href="#">DHS – Adult protection policies and procedure</a></p> <p><a href="#">Office of the Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities</a></p> <p><a href="#">Older Minnesotans: Know Your Rights About Services, DHS-4134 (PDF)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Report Suspected Abuse, Neglect or Financial Exploitation of Vulnerable Adults, DHS- (PDF)</a></p>