

Adult protection

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Legal authority	Minn. Stat. §626.557 , Minn. Stat. §626.5572 , Minn. Stat. §402A.10	
Definitions	<p>Adult protection: 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>Vulnerable adult (VA): A person age 18 or older who meets one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is a resident of a facility licensed by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) or DHS• Receives services from a provider licensed by MDH or DHS• Receives PCA services• Has an impairment that makes the person unable to meet their basic needs and protect themselves from harm. <p>Common entry point: 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>Mandated reporter: Professionals required to report suspected maltreatment of a vulnerable adult. Mandated reporters include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social service professionals• Law enforcement• Educators• Professionals who care for vulnerable adults• Providers licensed by DHS or MDH• Enrolled Medical Assistance (MA) providers• Medical examiners or coroners• Lead investigative agencies. <p>Lead investigative agency (LIA): 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">• Counties• Office of the Inspector General• Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Office of Health Facility Complaints. <p>Note: Only county and tribal agencies are responsible for offering adult protective services.</p>	
Types of maltreatment	<p>Emotional abuse 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">• Use of repeated or malicious oral, written or gestured language toward a vulnerable adult• Treatment of a vulnerable adult that a reasonable person would consider disparaging, derogatory, humiliating, harassing or threatening. <p>Financial exploitation Financial exploitation includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use, theft, possession or control of funds or property of a vulnerable adult through undue influence, harassment, duress, deception or fraud• Forcing, compelling or enticing a vulnerable adult to perform services for the profit or advantage of another.	

	<p>Neglect 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"> • Food • Clothing • Shelter • Health care • Supervision necessary for the vulnerable adult’s physical/mental health or safety. <p>Physical abuse 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"> • Criminal assault • Hitting, slapping, kicking, pinching, burning or biting • Punishment. <p>Physical abuse could also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restraints • Unreasonable confinement • Involuntary seclusion or forced separation of the vulnerable adult from a person of their choice. <p>Self-neglect 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>Sexual abuse 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"> • Rape • Fondling or caressing • Penetration or attempted penetration • Sexual utilization of the vulnerable adult for gratification of others.
<p>Reporting suspected maltreatment</p>	<p>Mandated reporters Mandated reporters are required to report suspected maltreatment of a vulnerable adult immediately with the online MAARC Mandated Reporter Form or by calling MAARC at 1-844-880-1574.</p> <p>General public The public can report suspected maltreatment by calling MAARC at 1-844-880-1574.</p>
<p>Adult protective services</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"> • Offering and arranging healthcare, supervision and social services to prevent further maltreatment, serious injury, loss of health or death of a vulnerable adult • Seeking authority to remove a vulnerable adult • Seeking a restraining order • Arranging for the appointment or replacement of a guardian or conservator • Arranging for a sexual assault examination.

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