

WHO IS A VULNERABLE ADULT?

A vulnerable adult is a person 18 years of age or older who, because of mental, developmental or physical impairment is unable to:

- communicate or make responsible decisions to manage one's own care or resources; or
- carry out or arrange for essential activities of daily living; or
- protect oneself from abuse.

A vulnerable adult is one who has suffered abuse or is in danger of abuse if immediate action is not taken.

WHAT ARE SOME INDICATIONS OF ABUSE & NEGLECT?

Physical Abuse - Non-accidental injury or pain with bruises, welts, skin discoloration, or fractures.

Psychological Abuse - Threats, insults, harassment, humiliation, or intimidation that confuses or frightens the vulnerable adult.

Sexual Abuse - Sexual contact or conduct including pornographic photographing without consent.

Caregiver Neglect - Failure to provide adequate food, shelter, clothing, protection from abandonment, physical care, health care, supervision, or failure to carry out responsibilities as an assumed, legal, or contractual caregiver.

Self-Neglect - Failure to care for one's self thereby exposing one's self to a situation or condition which poses an imminent risk of death or risk of serious physical harm.

Financial Exploitation - Wrongful taking, withholding, appropriation, or use of a vulnerable adult's money, real property, or personal property.

REPORTING VULNERABLE ADULT ABUSE & NEGLECT:

State law requires certain professionals to report vulnerable adult abuse and neglect:

- Any licensed or registered professional of the healing arts and any health-related occupation.
- Employees or officers of any public or private agency or institution providing social, medical, hospital or mental health services, including financial assistance.
- Employees or officers of any law enforcement agency.
- Employees or officers of adult residential care homes, adult day care centers, or similar institutions such as community care foster family homes.
- Medical examiners or coroners.
- Licensed social workers or non-licensed persons employed in a social worker position.

All others are encouraged to report abuse and neglect. The reporter may remain anonymous and is immune from any liability for making the report.

All reports are confidential.

WHAT STEPS ARE RECOMMENDED FOR PREVENTION?

- Reduce stress by asking for assistance. Physicians, nurses, health care providers, and social workers can provide information on where to go for help.
- Join community support groups which deal with the problems associated with caring for individuals such as Alzheimer's disease, mental illness, developmental disabilities, or alcoholism.
- Provide nursing and care home staff with information on how to meet your family's needs.
- Visit a facility before your family member enters it and call the long-term care ombudsman with any concerns about the care: 586-0100.
- Obtain information about available resources in your community.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Report adult abuse and neglect by calling Monday through Friday between 7:45 am and 4:30 pm.

Oahu	832-5115
Kauai	241-3337
Maui/Lanai	243-5151
Molokai	553-1763
Kau/Kona/Kohala/Kamuela	327-6280
Hilo/Hamakua/Puna	933-8820

In an emergency or after business hours call 911

Call the Area Agency on Aging for information on services for age 60 & older:

Oahu	523-4545
Big Island	961-8600
Maui	270-7774
Kauai	241-6400

or call ASK 2000

Vulnerable Adult Abuse and Neglect in Hawaii was prepared jointly by the Executive Office on Aging and the Department of Human Services, Adult Protective Services.

VULNERABLE

ADULT

ABUSE

&

NEGLECT

IN

HAWAII