

## Adult Protective Services: Recognizing and Reporting Suspected Adult Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation

### Question and Answer



**Q: What happens to those allegations that you can't investigate? Are those referred to other agencies?**

A: Investigations that may need criminal investigation are turned over to law enforcement or the Attorney General's office. Those agencies will work toward prosecution. Non-criminal cases involve work with the specific provider agency and how that will be rectified.

**Q: Should a person finding poor living conditions contact APS or local Code Enforcement or Health Department?**

A: If there is an endangered adult living in these conditions APS should be contacted along with contacting the local Code Enforcement or Health Department. In some cases the only way to guarantee the removal of the person would be through a condemnation of the home and APS has no authority to condemn a home.

**Q: What about cases that are not prosecuted due to individuals with disabilities being determined "unreliable witnesses"?**

A: Unfortunately, this is seen often. In the APS Unit 3 area, some sexual abuse situations interviews can be coordinated with child services who use forensic interviewing. There is planned training for those professionals on completing forensic interviews with individuals with disabilities which will allow them to be recognized as victims by using these techniques.

**Q: When attempting to contact APS concerning abuse or exploitation, what is the time frame in which to expect to receive a return call?**

A: APS has to prioritize cases based on the safety concern of the alleged victim. For example: a nurse calls in a report of an elderly gentleman on a Friday afternoon that came into the ER that day. He is being admitted into the hospital but it appears that he has been severely neglected. The nurse is demanding that APS respond ASAP as it is an emergency. From an APS point of view, if he is in a hospital receiving care and admitted the emergency no longer exists. All APS needs is the documented information on his condition when he arrived and his outcome because of his lack of care. APS will conduct an investigation on how he got in his current condition and make sure he doesn't return to an unsafe environment. APS will make some type of contact based on the need of the call. If the call requires emergency services, the call will be referred to law enforcement or the medics for immediate attention.

**Q: I serve a young man with intellectual disabilities whose father has a physical disability. The father frequently demands that the son bring him items, clean up messes, or do other errands for him. I would like to be able to spell out for the father what may or may not be considered as abuse or exploitation in this situation. What could I tell/show him?**

A: It could be considered abuse if it is excessive or he is threatening the son or there are suspicions of verbal or physical abuse. The CM may try suggesting referral to services for the father/caregiver to assist with their needs.

**Q: Will we be able to get copies of the materials/PPTs?**

A: The recording and materials will be sent to all registrants and will be available on IPMG's website and social media.

Comments: I forgot to mention during the presentation the importance of educating consumers on possible dangers of social media participation and to be aware that there have been instances of paid caregivers unethically sharing photos and videos of consumers on social media. There have been some instances of staff baiting them into unhealthy behavior i.e. fighting or using curse words on social media. If you become aware of these actions please report to your local APS office.