

*It could happen
to someone
you know*

"stop hurting me"

"treat me with respect"



*As awareness improves,
the number of reported cases
continues to rise annually.*

It's the Law

You must report adult abuse

If you suspect or believe that you are, or someone else is, being abused, neglected, self-neglecting or exploited the Adult Protection Law requires that you report this to the Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services, Adult Protective Services. You can do this by:

Calling: 800-949-0470 or 603-271-7014

Faxing: 603-271-4743

Emailing: apsintake@dhhs.state.nh.us

All calls and contacts are completely confidential.

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Abuse Hurts at any age

it's the law

you must report adult abuse



Prevent • Help • Report

800-949-0470

apsintake@dhhs.state.nh.us



Adult Protective Services

In New Hampshire, adult abuse is defined by the Adult Protection Law (*RSA 161-F: 42-57*). Adult abuse is any action or omission that results or could result in harm to a person age 18 or older who cannot provide for his or her own care and protection due to the effects of aging or a chronic illness or disability.

The Adult Protection Law identifies six types of abuse: physical, emotional, sexual, neglect, self-neglect and exploitation. As required by law, the NH Dept. of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services, receives and investigates reports of adult abuse and, when necessary, provides protective services.

It is estimated that only one in six cases of abuse towards an adult is reported.

- Affects adults across all ages, socioeconomic groups, cultures and races, and can occur anywhere.
- Common risk factors: being female, being an older adult, having dementia, mental health or substance abuse issues & isolation.

Self-Neglect

Self-neglect is the type of adult abuse most commonly reported. It occurs when an at-risk adult cannot or does not care appropriately for herself or himself.

Some signs of self-neglect are:

- Frequent falls
- History of fires or burns from smoking or cooking
- Hoarding that interferes with safety
- Inability to manage finances or pay bills
- Noncompliance with or inability to take medication as prescribed
- Unclean physical appearance, soiled clothing, inappropriate clothing for the weather, fecal/urine smell
- Unsanitary conditions in the home
- Untreated medical conditions
- Wandering or getting lost.

What to Look For

Signs and symptoms common to all types of abuse and neglect may include:

- Being left alone for long periods of time without supervision or assistance when it is needed
- Experiencing malnutrition/dehydration
- Fear, anxiety or agitation around certain household members or caregivers
- Increasing withdrawal and isolation
- Lack of routine medical care
- Misusing or stealing money or possessions
- Physical contact of a sexual nature
- Threats or intimidation or unwanted remarks
- Unexplained bruises, welts or burns
- Unexplained changes in health status.

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