



## WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF ABUSE?

Abuse can be: physical, sexual, emotional, exploitation, caregiver neglect, self-neglect, or abandonment.

**Abuse is not always easy to identify. It can often be hidden or disguised.**

- Bruises or broken bones from pinching or beating might be blamed on falls.
- Weight loss might be blamed on illness or lack of appetite when the cause is caregiver neglect or self-neglect.
- A neighbor might notice that the adult with disabilities next door never goes outside or sees visitors.
- A bank teller might find that someone claiming to represent the adult with disabilities is withdrawing large sums of money from a savings account.
- An attorney might question why an adult with disabilities would sign over his or her home to a relative.

Although these don't always mean abuse, it's important to be aware of any changes in behavior or anything out of the ordinary that might suggest abuse.

## WHERE CAN YOU GET HELP?

Local agencies have services available to help you. The following organizations can provide information on caregiving and support:

### **Aging and Disability Resource Centers**

1.866.286.3636

### **The Arc of Pennsylvania**

1.800.692.7258

### **Mental Health Association of PA**

1.866.578.3659

### **Disability Rights PA**

1.800.692.7443

### **UCP of Pennsylvania**

1.866.761.6129

### **Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape**

1.888.772.PCAR (7227)

### **Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence**

1.800.932.4632



# STOP ABUSE

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

# REPORT IT NOW!

## 1.800.490.8505

LEARN MORE AT [DHS.PA.GOV/APS](https://dhs.pa.gov/aps)

# EACH YEAR,

**THOUSANDS OF ADULT PENNSYLVANIANS WITH DISABILITIES ARE ABUSED, NEGLECTED, EXPLOITED, OR ABANDONED. MANY TIMES THE PERSON IS DEPENDENT UPON A SPOUSE, RELATIVE, PAID CAREGIVER, OR FRIEND FOR CARE, FOOD, AND SHELTER. THE ABUSER IS LIKELY A CAREGIVER, AND OFTEN LIVES IN THE SAME HOUSE.**

**RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS // 1.800.490.8505**

## HOW CAN YOU REPORT ABUSE?

If you *suspect* abuse, call the Abuse Hotline, **1-800-490-8505**, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including holidays.

Unfortunately, people sometimes prefer not to become involved when they suspect abuse is occurring. The tragic result is that cases of suspected abuse go unreported. So, the abuse continues.

**All calls are confidential.**

## POSSIBLE INDICATORS OF ABUSE BY A CAREGIVER

- The individual may not be allowed to speak for him or herself, or see others, without the presence of the caregiver.
- The caregiver blames the individual.
- Inappropriate displays of affection by the caregiver.
- Social isolation or restriction of activities of the adult by the caregiver.
- Caregiver's unwillingness or reluctance to cooperate with service providers in planning for the individual's care.



## REPORTING ABUSE: WHAT HAPPENS?

The APS agency has specially trained staff to investigate the report. A staff person will call or visit the adult with disabilities. If abuse has occurred, steps will be taken to protect the adult, stop the abuse, and prevent it from happening again.

**An adult can only receive protective services voluntarily.** Protective services may not be provided to an adult who refuses consent or who — having previously consented — withdraws the consent, unless the services are ordered by a court. The APS agency may offer the following protective services: temporary shelter, medical care, personal care, transportation, counseling, financial or legal assistance/referral, etc., depending on the person's needs.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE **STOP ABUSE**

