



In 2012 more than
 2.8 million Texans
 were age 65 or older,
 and more than
 1.6 million Texans
 aged 18-64 have a
 disability according
 to population
 projections. Many of
 these people live
 alone or are
 dependent on others
 for care.



Protecting
 Vulnerable Adults
 from Abuse, Neglect, and
 Financial Exploitation,
 is Everyone's Business.



EveryonesBusiness.org

As you see yourself, I once saw myself;
 as you see me now, you will be seen.



Adult Protective Services
 Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
www.dfps.state.tx.us

Stock Code: 20852-0000 May 2013

Protecting Vulnerable Adults
 Is Everyone's Business

EveryonesBusiness.org

1-800-252-5400



EveryonesBusiness.org

Adult Protective Services (APS) investigates allegations of abuse, neglect and financial exploitation of the elderly or adults with disabilities. When maltreatment is confirmed, APS provides or arranges services in an attempt to alleviate the problem. APS is dedicated to ensuring the health and safety of vulnerable adults in Texas.

Many people who are elderly or have disabilities live alone or are dependent on others for their care. Isolation is a factor that places vulnerable adults at risk for abuse, neglect and financial exploitation. Make it your mission to remember the elderly and adults with disabilities in your community.

As the population continues to age, APS will continue to see an increase in the number of reports. More than half of all cases reported to APS involve neglect. Most involve self-neglect. Through illness or diminished mental capacity, vulnerable adults may no longer be able to provide adequately for their own health and safety. They may live in unsanitary conditions, without heat or running water, or may need assistance with meals and other daily activities. They may also require medical care.

Possible Indicators or Abuse, Neglect, and Financial Exploitation

Physical Signs

- ◆ Injury that is inconsistent with the explanation
- ◆ Pain from touching

EveryonesBusiness.org

- ◆ Dehydration or malnutrition
- ◆ Poor color, sunken eyes or cheeks
- ◆ Inappropriate administration of medication
- ◆ Soiled clothing or bed
- ◆ Lack of necessities such as food, water or utilities

Behavioral Signs

- ◆ Fear, anxiety, agitation, anger, withdrawal, depression
- ◆ Non-responsiveness, resignation, ambivalence
- ◆ Contradictory statements, implausible stories
- ◆ Hesitation to talk openly
- ◆ Confused or disoriented

Caregiver Signs

- ◆ Prevents vulnerable adult from speaking to or seeing others
- ◆ Anger, indifference, toward vulnerable adult
- ◆ History of substance abuse, criminal behavior, or family violence
- ◆ Conflicting accounts of incidents
- ◆ Talks of vulnerable adult as a burden

Signs of Financial Exploitation

- ◆ Frequent expensive gifts from vulnerable adult to caregiver
- ◆ Unpaid bills, unusual activity in bank account
- ◆ Caregiver's name added to bank account

Report Suspected Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation

- ◆ Frequent checks made out to "cash"
- ◆ Documents (will, loan, etc.) signed when vulnerable adult seems incapable of understanding
- ◆ Caregiver's refusal to spend money on vulnerable adult
- ◆ Signatures on documents that do not resemble vulnerable adult's

Client Rights

If APS validates abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation, clients will be:

- ◆ Offered protective services, if available, or may be
- ◆ Helped to locate and apply for services to relieve abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation;
- ◆ Involved in all decisions concerning the least restrictive service or placement to meet medical and safety needs; and
- ◆ Free to decline services unless they are in a state of abuse or neglect that threatens life or physical safety, and a court determines that the client lacks proper capacity to consent to or refuse services.

When you suspect abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation, report it to the **Texas Abuse Hotline** at:

1-800-252-5400 or report the incident online at <https://www.txabusehotline.org>. If you believe it is a life-threatening emergency, dial 911.