

# ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

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# VIDEOS

Everyone needs help sometimes  
Minnesota Adult Protection PSA

[https://youtu.be/RuPZuW01sRM?si=VXOjw\\_jTrawlgRSC](https://youtu.be/RuPZuW01sRM?si=VXOjw_jTrawlgRSC)

The Government of Alberta, Canada partnered with the Alberta Elder Abuse Awareness Network to produce this video to bring awareness of the issue of Elder Abuse and to educate on the help available.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEGhbbpel30>

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# HOW IS A VULNERABLE ADULT DEFINED?

- A **vulnerable adult** can be anyone over age 18 who:
  - Has a physical, mental or emotional disorder that makes it difficult for the person to care for themselves without help and to protect themselves from maltreatment
  - Is in a hospital, nursing home, transitional care unit, assisted living, housing with services, board and care, foster care or other licensed care facility
  - Receives services such as home care, day services, personal care assistance or other licensed services.

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# MYTH: VULNERABLE ADULTS ARE ALWAYS ELDERLY

**Reports by Vulnerable Adult Age, Calendar Year 2019-2022**

AGE GROUP	2022		2021		2020		2019	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
18 to 22	1,564	2.6%	1,568	2.8%	1,505	3.0%	1,706	2.9%
23 to 29	4,624	11.6%	4,993	12.0%	4,379	12.1%	5,363	10.9%
30 to 44	15,508	24.3%	13,693	25.2%	12,838	25.2%	14,017	24.1%
45 to 74	18,364	17.3%	9,547	17.3%	8,374	16.5%	9,339	16.0%
75 to 84	18,058	16.8%	9,052	16.7%	7,799	15.2%	8,444	16.2%
85 to 100	8,823	14.7%	8,340	15.1%	8,445	16.6%	11,014	18.0%
Unknown	7,416	12.7%	6,218	11.3%	5,739	11.3%	6,352	10.9%
<b>TOTAL REPORTS</b>	<b>59,507</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>55,171</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>50,877</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>54,311</b>	<b>100%</b>

According to the MN DHS Vulnerable Adult Protection Dashboard, in 2022, MAARC received 23,046 reports regarding adults aged 18-64 ([https://mn.gov/dhs/assets/2019-2022-MAARC-reports-VA-age-race-gender\\_tcm1053-576593.pdf](https://mn.gov/dhs/assets/2019-2022-MAARC-reports-VA-age-race-gender_tcm1053-576593.pdf))

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## TYPES OF ABUSE

- **Maltreatment** includes:
  - Abuse, including physical, emotional and sexual abuse, use of restraints, involuntary seclusion or punishment (MN Statutes 656.5572 Subd. 2)
  - Neglect, including failure to provide the food, shelter, clothing, health care or supervision necessary to maintain the person's health, safety, or comfort. Neglect may be by a caregiver or service provider, or because the vulnerable adult cannot meet their own needs (MN Statutes 626.5572 Subd. 17)
  - Financial exploitation, including theft or withholding of money or property and/or use of money or property not for the vulnerable adult's benefit (MN Statutes 626.5572 Subd. 9)

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**MYTH:  
IF THERE ARE NO  
BRUISES OR  
PHYSICAL SIGNS  
OF ABUSE, THERE IS  
NOTHING TO  
WORRY ABOUT**

- When thinking about abuse, many people picture bruises, black eyes or broken bones.
- Self-neglect and financial exploitation are two of the most common types of reports we receive.
- None of the typical forms of abuse result in obvious outward signs ([www.agingwisdom.com](http://www.agingwisdom.com))

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## VULNERABLE ADULT PROTECTION DASHBOARD: ALLEGATIONS

Allegation Type	2022 CY				Total
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Emotional Abuse	2,617	2,755	3,092	2,846	<b>11,310</b>
Physical Abuse	2,089	2,316	2,267	2,262	<b>8,934</b>
Sexual Abuse	531	624	618	553	<b>2,326</b>
Financial Exploitation: fiduciary	843	931	979	920	<b>3,673</b>
Financial Exploitation: non-fiduciary	2,571	2,671	2,810	2,452	<b>10,504</b>
Caregiver Neglect	5,293	5,361	5,988	5,665	<b>22,307</b>
Self Neglect	4,501	4,496	4,896	4,556	<b>18,449</b>
<b>Total Allegations by Quarter</b>	<b>18,445</b>	<b>19,154</b>	<b>20,650</b>	<b>19,254</b>	<b>77,503</b>

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**MYTH:  
STRANGERS AND  
PAID CAREGIVERS  
ARE THE ONES  
PREYING ON  
OLDER PEOPLE**

- Many vulnerable adults are actually abused by a known, trusted person—usually a family member or significant other. Abuse is frequently cloaked in a shroud of family secrecy that sometimes makes detection very difficult ([www.agingwisdom.com](http://www.agingwisdom.com))

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## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A REPORT IS MADE?

### Within 24 Hours:

- If the VA is not in need of immediate care or protection, but is allegedly abused, the investigation shall begin.

### Within 72 Hours:

- If the VA is not in need of immediate care or protection, is not allegedly abused, nor has allegedly been neglected, the investigation shall begin.

### Within 5 Days:

- Notify reporter of the initial disposition if such notification would not endanger the Vulnerable Adult.

### Within 60 Days:

- The Lead Investigative Agency shall complete the investigation and final disposition within 60 calendar days.

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## MYTH: IF A REPORT IS FILED, APS WILL REMOVE THE ADULT FROM THE HOME

- APS does not have statutory authority to take custody of adults or control of their assets.
- This myth can lead to fear on the part of people wishing to report abuse.
- It can also lead to frustration for those wanting to see action.

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## INVESTIGATION OUTCOMES

- Substantiated
- False
- Inconclusive
- No determination (investigation not possible, not a vulnerable adult)
- Criminal charges
- Reports to licensing/certification boards (nurses, doctors, therapists, educators)
- Investigation results also interface with the MN Licensing Agencies – Dept. of Human Services, Office of Health Facility Complaints

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## OUTCOMES CONT...

- Other service or referral for resources
  - MnCHOICES Assessment
  - Coordination between agencies
  - Guardianship
  - Conservatorship
  - Placement in a facility
  - Coordination between agencies

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## MINNESOTA ADULT ABUSE REPORTING CENTER—MAARC

- All adult maltreatment reports are made to a centralized call center that is staffed 24 hrs/day, 7 days/week
- 844-880-1574
- Mandated reporters can submit reports online  
<http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-6303-ENG>

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### Minnesota Statute 626.5572 Subd. 16. Mandated reporter.

"Mandated reporter" means a professional or professional's delegate while engaged in: (1) social services; (2) law enforcement; (3) education; (4) the care of vulnerable adults; (5) any of the occupations referred to in section 214.01, subdivision 2; (6) an employee of a rehabilitation facility certified by the commissioner of jobs and training for vocational rehabilitation; (7) an employee or person providing services in a facility as defined in subdivision 6; or (8) a person that performs the duties of the medical examiner or coroner.

**Examples:** Nurses, chiropractors, home health providers, dentists, therapists, pharmacists

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## DILEMMAS

- A person can choose to live in harm or even self-destructively, provided he or she is competent to choose, does not harm others and commits no crimes. Freedom is more important than safety.
- In serving the adult client, the full range of social work skills must be used to assure the client is fully aware of alternatives, can make an informed choice, and understands the consequences of choice.
- Resources

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## OUR PARTNERS

- Cook County Sheriff's Office
- Cook County Attorney's Office
- Local financial institutions
- Other community service providers

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**QUESTIONS?**  
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