

Reporting Abuse of Older Adults and People with Physical Disabilities



For more information go to:

www.Oregon.gov/dhs and click on "Abuse and neglect" in the A to Z list.

Or contact

Office of Adult Abuse Prevention and Investigations

Telephone: 503-945-9495

Fax: 503-945-9893

TTY: 1-800-735-2900

For emergencies, call 911

Call

1-855-503-SAFE (7233)
to report abuse.

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

541-924-8418

LINN-BENTON-LINCOLN



This document can be provided upon request in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities or in a language other than English for people with limited English skills. To request this form in another format or language, contact Office of Adult Abuse Prevention and Investigations at 503-945-9495, toll free 1-866-406-4287 or 1-800-735-2900 for TTY.

Will my name be kept confidential if I report abuse?



State law protects the confidentiality of all individuals reporting abuse. The identity of the reporter can only be revealed under specific legal exceptions such as report of a crime or an order by a judge. You are not required to give your name if you wish to remain anonymous.

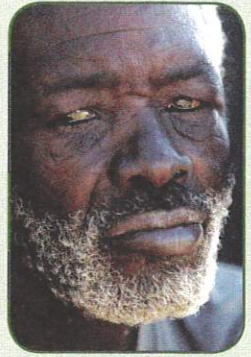
Am I protected if I report abuse?

Yes. Oregon's adult abuse reporting law affords protection for any individual who reports suspected abuse in good faith. Anyone reporting adult abuse with reasonable grounds is immune from civil and criminal liability.

What happens after a report of abuse?

DHS and local aging and disability offices provide protective services and investigate reports of suspected abuse. These agencies will determine whether or not abuse or neglect occurred and work with law enforcement when a potential crime may be involved.





Abuse robs older adults and persons with physical disabilities of health, safety and property in communities across Oregon.

Let's commit to the improvement of vulnerable adults' quality of life through prevention and reporting.

What is adult abuse?

Abuse of adults age 65 and older and adults with physical disabilities age 18 and older can include:

- Physical harm or injury;
- Failure to provide basic care;
- Financial exploitation;
- Verbal or emotional abuse;
- Involuntary seclusion;
- Wrongful restraint;
- Unwanted sexual contact; or
- Abandonment by the caregiver.

In addition, self-neglect is when individuals lack the cognitive ability to care for themselves, which can also lead to harm.

Where does adult abuse occur?

Abuse can happen wherever someone lives, such as a person's own home or the home of family or friends. It can also occur in a professional care setting such as a nursing facility, a residential care facility, an assisted living facility or an adult foster home.

How big a problem is adult abuse?

Each year, the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS), local offices of APD and Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) receive more than 35,000 calls of concern and investigate more than 16,000 complaints of adult abuse and self-neglect.

As baby boomers age, the problem will worsen. In 2010, 13 percent of Oregon's population was 65 or older. In 2030, 20 percent will be 65 or older.

Who should report abuse?

Everyone should report abuse. We all have a responsibility to protect those who cannot protect themselves. Oregon law requires mandatory reporting by certain people.

Who is a mandatory reporter?

You are a mandatory reporter 24/7 for older adults if you are a:

- Physician, psychiatrist, naturopathic physician, osteopathic physician, chiropractor, podiatric physician, physician assistant, or surgeon including any intern or resident;
- Licensed practical nurse, registered nurse, nurse practitioner, nurse's aide, home health aide, or employee of an in-home health service;
- Employee of DHS or OHA, county health department, community mental health program, developmental disabilities program or an Area Agency on Aging (AAA);
- Employee of a nursing facility or an individual who contracts to provide services to a nursing facility;
- Peace officer;

- Member of the clergy;
- Psychologist, regulated social worker, licensed professional counselor or licensed marriage and family therapist;
- Physical therapist, speech therapist, occupational therapist, audiologist or speech language pathologist;
- Information and referral or outreach worker;
- Senior center employee;
- Firefighter or emergency medical services provider;
- Adult foster home licensee or an employee of the licensee;
- Member of the Oregon Legislature or their staff;
- Attorney;
- Dentist or Optometrist;
- Homecare worker; and
- Personal support worker.

Note: All of the above, plus legal counsel, guardians and family members are mandatory reporters for any resident in a nursing facility.



Together, we have the power to prevent abuse.