

Elder Abuse & How to Recognize the Signs

Presented by:

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Community Living, Aging, & Protective Services Why should I care about adult abuse?

1 in 10 community residing adults

More than 5 million older adults

1 out of 23 to 1 out of 44 reported

Incidence & Prevalence of Adult Abuse in Oklahoma



25,655 referrals

Possible Warning Signs: Physical Abuse

- Unexplained or untreated injury or illness
- Bruises, especially layered
- Malnutrition, weight loss, dehydration
- Abrasions, cuts, lacerations
- Burns, especially patterned

Possible Warning Signs: Sexual Abuse

- Genital injuries
- Human bite marks
- Imprint injuries
- Bruising on thighs, buttocks, or breasts
- Frequent unexplained physical illness or complaints
- Genital or urinary tract irritation, injury, infection, or scarring
- Sexually transmitted diseases*
- Pregnancy*

Possible Warning Signs: Neglect

- Unsafe living environment
- Malnutrition/dehydration
- Lack of medical care—untreated medical conditions
- Over or under medication
- Skin breakdown/decubitus ulcers
- Poor personal hygiene
- Inappropriate clothing
- Isolation

Possible Warning Signs: Behavioral, Mental, & Emotional

- Anger, irritability
- Apathy, fearfulness, nervousness
- Clothing dirty, seldom changed, inappropriate
- Confusion, disorientation, wandering
- Decreased quality of personal hygiene

Possible Warning Signs: Environmental

- Hoarding
- House in poor repair
- Inadequate clothing, food, or shelter
- Offensive odors (feces, urine, rotted food)
- Vermin infestations (rodents, insects, bed bugs)

Possible Warning Signs: Financial

- Forced, tricked, or manipulated signatures
- Unpaid rent or utilities
- Inappropriate bank activity
- Personal belongings missing

Possible Warning Signs: Caregiver

- Reacts inappropriately
- Isolates
- Refuses to allow medical care
- Refuses to pay for necessities or care
- Verbally critical and threatening
- Consistently over or underreacts

Case Study: Barbara

Who Is Being Abused?

- Females and males
- Isolated
- People who have:
 - Disabilities
 - Memory problems or dementia
- Dependent on others for help
- Frail

Who are the Perpetrators?

- Spouses or former spouses
- Current or former partners
- Another individual with whom the victim has an ongoing, personal relationship



- Denial
- Fear
- Loss
- Shame

Impact on Victims

Unique Challenges



Supporting Connectedness



Action Steps

- Speak out
- Collaborate
- Educate
- Initiate changes
- Increase knowledge of available resources
- Promote resources
- Offer assistance
 - **Contact Adult Protective Services**



APS Role & Responsibilities

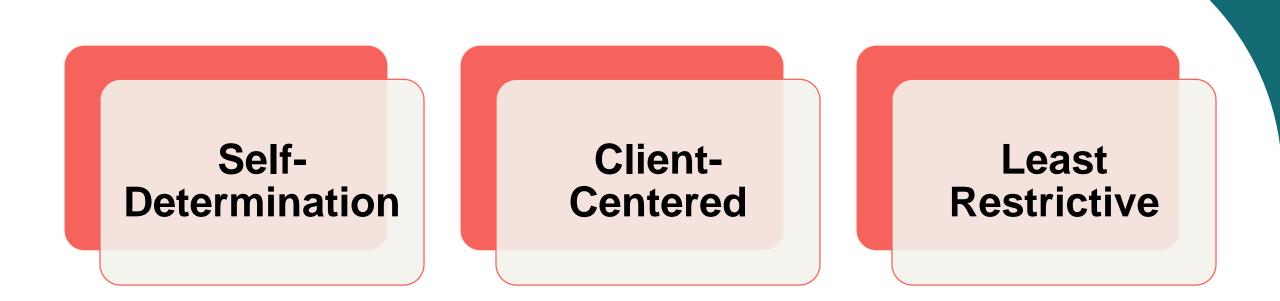
Service Cases

- Allegation requires service planning only
- Examples include:
 - Self-neglect
 - No Alleged Perpetrator identified

Investigations

- Allegation requires an investigation
- Examples include:
 - Caretaker Abuse
 - Caretaker Neglect
 - Exploitation
 - Financial Neglect
 - Abandonment
 - Verbal Abuse
 - Personal Degradation
 - Self-Neglect when APS guardianship is required

Service Planning



APS Services Through Temporary Guardianship

APS can only provide involuntary services when:

- the client lacks capacity to consent;
- there is no one else available to make appropriate decisions for the client; AND
- the client is at substantial risk of death or immediate and serious physical harm or financial exploitation of the estate

Case Closure



Situation is remedied

Circumstances are stable

 Client retains capacity and refuses services

Duty to Report: Title 43A §10-104

• Who – any person having reasonable cause

When - as soon as person is aware of the situation

Where - to DHS or local law enforcement

Mandatory Reporters: Title 43A §10-104

B. Persons required to make reports pursuant to this section shall include, but not be limited to:

- Physicians
- Operators of emergency response vehicles and other medical professionals
- Social workers and mental health professionals
- Law enforcement officials
- Staff of domestic violence programs
- Long-term care facility personnel, including staff of nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, residential care facilities, and Veterans centers

Mandatory Reporters: Title 43A §10-104 cont.

- Job coaches, community service workers, and personal care assistants
- Other health care professionals
- Persons entering into transactions with a caretaker or other person who has assumed the role of financial management
- Staff of residential care facilities, group homes, or employment settings for person with DD
- Municipal employees

Making an APS Referral

Report to:

Public Access

Abuseisnotok.org (use Chrome)

Abuse & Neglect Hotline

1-800-522-3511

Local law enforcement



Questions