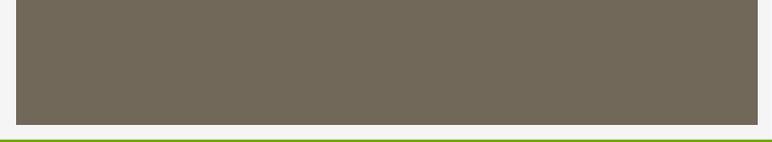


Connections

**Maltreatment Response and
Reporting -
Abuse Prevention**

Program Abuse Prevention Plan

- Purpose of this training:
 - To understand the purpose of the Abuse Prevention Plan
 - To gain a general understanding of the Abuse Prevention Plan
 - To understand what the expectations of staff are in relation to the Mandated Reporting.



The Minnesota Legislature has stated a clear public policy of protection of adults, who because of physical or mental impairment are particularly vulnerable to abuse or neglect. The law requires that certain professional and occupational groups report suspected abuse or neglect. As a provider of services to people with disabilities, we have an obligation to protect these individuals from abuse or neglect and to report suspected abuse or neglect.

Mandated Reporter

- Any employee providing services in a facility who has knowledge of abuse or neglect of a vulnerable adult.
- Any employee who has reasonable cause to believe that a vulnerable adult is being or has been abused or neglected.
- Any employee who has knowledge that a vulnerable adult has sustained a physical injury which is not reasonably explained by the history of the injuries provided by the caretaker or caretakers of the vulnerable adult.

YOU are a Mandated Reporter!

- How to make a Vulnerable Adult report:
 - You can report to the state-wide common entry point, the Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center, at **844-880-1574**.
 - Or, you can report internally to the Program Coordinator.
 - If the individual listed above is involved in the alleged or suspected maltreatment, you must report to Director.

Maltreatment of Minors

- Any person may voluntarily report abuse or neglect.
- If you work with children in a licensed facility, you are legally required or mandated to report and cannot shift the responsibility of reporting to your supervisor or to anyone else at your licensed facility.
- If you know or have reason to believe a child is being or has been neglected or physically or sexually abused within the preceding three years you must immediately (within 24 hours) make a report to an outside agency.

How to report

- If you know or suspect that a child is in immediate danger, call 911.
- All reports concerning suspected abuse or neglect of children occurring in a licensed facility should be made to the Department of Human Services, Licensing Division's Maltreatment Intake line at (651) 431-6600.
- Reports regarding incidents of suspected abuse or neglect of children occurring within a family or in the community should be made to the local county social services agency at 218-299-5200 or local law enforcement at 218-299-5120.
- If your report does not involve possible abuse or neglect, but does involve possible violations of Minnesota Statutes or Rules that govern the facility, you should call the Department of Human Services, Licensing Division at (651) 431-6500.

Examples of Abuse

- Any act which constitutes a violation of the prostitution or criminal sexual conduct statutes of the state of Minnesota.
- Non-therapeutic conduct which produces or could reasonably be expected to produce pain or injury and is not accidental or, any repeated conduct which produces or could reasonably be expected to produce mental or emotional distress.
- Any sexual conduct between a facility staff person and a client of the facility.
- The illegal use of a vulnerable adult's person or property for another person's profit or advantage or the breach of fiduciary relationship through the use of a person or a person's property for any purpose not in the proper and lawful execution of trust, including but not limited to situations where a person obtains money, property, or services from a client through the use of undue influence, harassment, duress deception, or fraud.

Examples of Neglect

- Failure by a caretaker to supply the client with necessary food, clothing, shelter, health care, or supervision.
- The absence or likelihood of absence of necessary food, clothing, shelter, health care, or supervision of client.
- The absence or likelihood of absence of necessary financial management to protect a client against abuse as abuse is defined above.

Examples of Financial Exploitation

- The engagement in unauthorized expenditure of funds entrusted to the caretaker by the client which results or is likely to result in the detriment to the client.
- The failure to use the financial resources of the client to provide food, clothing, shelter, health care, therapeutic conduct or supervision for the client and the failure results or is likely to result in detriment to the client.

Internal Reporting and Review

- The report must be submitted to your direct supervisor within 24 hours of the nearest working day to the incident.
- The Supervisor will be responsible to determine whether or not the report will be internally investigated before submitting the report to the Adult Abuse Reporting Center
- The Supervisor will complete an internal investigation report, interviewing individuals involved or having knowledge of the incident.
- Upon completing the internal investigation, the Supervisor will determine what, if any, action should be taken.

Internal Reporting and Review

- The Supervisor, upon filing a suspected abuse or neglect form, will notify, in writing, the individual that made the initial vulnerable adult report, that the report was filed within two working days.
- The agency or person shall not retaliate against any person who reports in good faith suspected abuse or neglect or against a vulnerable adult with respect to whom a report is made, because of the report.

Failure to Report

- Failure to report suspected abuse or neglect is a misdemeanor, punishable by 90 days in jail and possibly assessed civil damages determined by the extent of damages caused by the individual's failure to report.
- Internal abuse or neglect of a vulnerable adult by a Mandated Reporter is a gross misdemeanor, punishable by a \$3000.00 fine and 1 year in jail.
- Abuse or neglect that falls under criminal conduct will be persecuted in the judicial system.
- Purposely filing a false report by a mandated reporter may result in punitive damages being assessed by a court of law.

Internal Investigation Review Process

- When an incident involves the health or safety of a vulnerable adult and places the individual in imminent danger, the Supervisor is responsible to contact the office of Ombudsman at **1-800-657-3506**.
- When the Supervisor is suspected of committing the abuse or allowing the neglect, reports shall be submitted to the Supervisor's Supervisor.
- When the Executive Director is suspected of committing the abuse or allowing the neglect, reports shall be submitted to the Chairperson or the Board of Directors.

External Reporting

- Reports of suspected maltreatment of a vulnerable adult are made 24 hours a day to Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center at 844-880-1574.
- Include as much detail as possible about the incident or situation. Full names of all persons involved, dates, time, specific actions or injuries

External Reporting

- After a report is received:
 - Discussion with reporter
 - Discussion with the facility's administrator or responsible designee
 - Discussion with a physician or other professionals or any corroborating contacts
 - Contact with the alleged victim
 - Discussion with the alleged perpetrator
 - Examination of the physical condition or psychological climate of the facility
 - Inspection of the alleged victim's records
 - Determination of whether the reported abuse or neglect places other vulnerable adults in jeopardy
 - Coordination of the investigation with law enforcement officials
 - You will be notified in writing that your report was forwarded to MAARC by your supervisor within two days.

Retaliation Prohibited

- A facility or person shall not retaliate against any person who reports in good faith suspected abuse or neglect pursuant to this section, or against a vulnerable adult with respect to who a report is made, because of the report.

Available Upon Request

- A full, printed copy of Connections' Abuse Prevention Plan is available to you upon your request.

Videos

- Talking about Abuse
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLbaDkq6xb0>
- Addressing Abuse
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFWXWFBt5B4>