

MANDATED REPORTERS: REPORTING ABUSE

To report to DSHS / APS, call 1-866-363-4276 (ENDHARM) or your local APS office.

To report to law enforcement:

- Call 911 if emergency situation
- Call local police agency’s non-emergency line or local precinct to make a police report (local police where the vulnerable adult lives or where the crime occurred)

Who is a Mandated Reporter?	Vulnerable adult?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employees of DSHS • law enforcement officers • social workers • professional school personnel • individual providers or employees of a facility • operators of a facility • employees of a social service, welfare, mental health, adult day health, adult day care, home health, home care, or hospice agency • county coroners or medical examiners • Christian Science practitioners • licensed health care providers • <u>Anyone engaged in a professional capacity during the regular course of employment in encouraging or promoting the health, welfare, support, or education of vulnerable adults, or providing social services to vulnerable adults, whether in an individual capacity or as an employee or agent of any public or private organization or institution.</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 years of age or older who has the functional, mental, or physical inability to care for himself or herself • Found incapacitated by a court or has a guardian • Has developmental disability (any age) • Admitted to any facility • Receiving services from home health, hospice, or home care agencies • Receiving services from an individual provider or personal aide.

If you are a mandated reporter and witness, suspect, or have reasonable cause to believe that abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation or neglect has occurred to a vulnerable adult, or that a death has occurred due to it:

- **You must immediately report information you have to authorities.**
- **You do not need to have proof or evidence – investigating the situation is not your job!**
- **You are immune from any liability from reporting – no one can sue you.**
- **NOT reporting is a gross misdemeanor (for licensed professionals) and could cost you your license to practice!**

If you are not a mandated reporter as listed above, you are a “permissive reporter” – this means you should report, and you are immune from any liability from reporting.

REPORTING ABUSE OF VULNERABLE ADULTS

REGARDING:	REPORT IMMEDIATELY:
physical assault of a vulnerable adult	call police <u>and</u> report to DSHS/APS
sexual assault of a vulnerable adult	call police <u>and</u> report to DSHS/APS
abandonment or neglect of a vulnerable adult	call police <u>and</u> report to DSHS/APS
abuse (physical, mental, sexual) of a vulnerable adult	call police <u>and</u> report to DSHS/APS
exploitation of a vulnerable adult	call police <u>and</u> report to DSHS/APS
any act that caused a vulnerable adult fear of imminent harm	call police <u>and</u> report to DSHS/APS
an incident of physical assault between vulnerable adults where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the injury appears on the back, face, head, neck, chest, breasts, groin, inner thigh, buttock, genital, or anal area; • there is a fracture; • there is a pattern of physical assault involving the same vulnerable adults; or • there is an attempt to choke a vulnerable adult. 	<p>call police <u>and</u> report to DSHS</p>
any incident of physical assault <u>between</u> vulnerable adults that causes minor bodily injury and does not require more than basic first aid	<p>not required to report unless requested by the injured vulnerable adult or their legal representative or family member</p>
crimes commonly involving vulnerable adults: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="width: 50%;">• theft <li style="width: 50%;">• physical assault <li style="width: 50%;">• neglect <li style="width: 50%;">• sexual assault <li style="width: 50%;">• abandonment 	<p>Call 911 immediately to report to police <u>and</u> also report to DSHS/APS</p>
death of a vulnerable adult that may have been due to any type of abuse, neglect, or abandonment	<p>Immediately report to police <u>AND</u> medical examiner / coroner's office <u>AND</u> also report to DSHS/APS</p>

To report to DSHS / APS, call 1-866-363-4276 (ENDHARM) or your local APS office.

- * Note, we recommend you report to police as well. Police will respond quickly.
- DSHS/APS can take days or weeks to follow up on referrals.

To report to law enforcement, call 9-1-1 for any emergency situation

- Call local police agency's non-emergency line or local precinct to make a police report.
- Contact the local police office where the vulnerable adult lives or where the crime occurred.

Remember:

- If unsure who to call or how to report, call the DSHS Hotline at 800.562.6078.
- **If unsure whether you need to report, CALL!**