

The Role of APS

APS cannot force people to accept help. Adults have the right to refuse APS assistance.

APS cannot force anyone to go into a nursing home. APS is committed to helping adults stay in their own homes as long as they can.

APS can tell you they received your report, however, the APS worker can only discuss the victim's case with other agencies directly involved in providing services to the client that are defined in state law.

What will APS do?

An APS worker will interview the vulnerable adult alone to determine the facts of the situation. The APS worker may also interview family members, the suspected abuser or others involved.

If the abuse is serious, the APS worker can make a report to the police. The APS worker will also work to keep the family together while helping eliminate abuse.

The APS worker will consult with the vulnerable adult about what community services are available to insure his or her safety. With consent, the APS worker can arrange for needed services and help the vulnerable adult find helpful strategies.

Anyone can be a victim.....

Abuse happens to men and women, rich and poor, healthy and ill and to all ethnic and cultural groups. Although individuals who are dependent on others for care are the most likely to be abused, even healthy, active adults can become victims.

.....and anyone can be an abuser

To report suspected abuse or exploitation call the Wyoming Department of Family Services local field office or local law enforcement agency in your community.

Wyoming Department of Family
Services

2300 Capitol Avenue
Hathaway Building, Third Floor
Cheyenne, WY. 82002

Phone: 307-777-7564

<http://dfsweb.wyo.gov>

Adult Protective Services

*Abuse, Neglect and
Exploitation of
Elders and
Vulnerable Adults*



Social Service Division
307-777-7564



Who is a Vulnerable Adult?

Vulnerable Adults are people 18 years of age or older who are vulnerable to abuse. It may be because they are unable to perform or obtain services needed to maintain their health, safety or welfare due to a physical, mental limitation or advanced age (60 years of age or more).

Adults who lack sufficient understanding or capacity to communicate their needs are also considered vulnerable.

An abuser can be a trusted family member, caregiver or friend. Caregiver stress, substance abuse, financial problems and personal problems can all cause a well meaning person to become abusive.

What is Abuse?

Financial Exploitation– The use of a vulnerable adult's money or property for another's advantage.

Neglect– Lack of food, shelter, clothing or care provided to a vulnerable adult. This includes withholding medication or medical care.

Self-Neglect– The inability or unwillingness of a vulnerable adult to care for herself or himself. This may include self-abuse. Choice of lifestyle, by itself, does not indicate self-neglect.

Physical Abuse– Hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, burning, confining, and restraining an adult.

Sexual Abuse– Sexual activity or touching without the adult's consent or understanding.

Intimidation– Communication by word or act that victim, family, friends or pets will be deprived of food, shelter, medical care or financial support.

Reporting Abuse

Why should you make a report?

Since victims may be reluctant to report, they need YOU to assist them in getting them the help they need, and it is easy. Simply make a phone call to your local DFS or Law Enforcement.

Wyoming is a mandatory reporting State. You are protected from any liability as long as you make the report in good faith.

What happens after you make a report?

No, two reports are handled the same way. If the victim is in immediate danger, an APS worker will respond right away.

If you have given your name in the report, an APS worker may call you to get more details about the situation. Your identity will not be revealed to the vulnerable adult or the abuser.

APS upholds strict confidentiality between the vulnerable adult and those involved in the investigation. APS cannot divulge details of the case with the person who reports.

