

## What is Adult Protective Services?

Adult Protective Services (APS) is a social services program provided by state and local governments nationwide serving seniors who are in need assistance. APS workers frequently serve as first responders in cases of abuse, neglect or exploitation, working closely with a wide variety of allied professionals such as physicians, nurses, paramedics, firefighters and law enforcement officers.

## How APS Helps

Most seniors live independently without assistance, however, some face abuse or neglect by others and need trained professionals to advocate on their behalf. Others may simply be struggling with routine activities and benefit from in-home support services to maintain their health and independence. APS helps by assessing each individual's unique needs, then developing a service plan to maintain his/her safety, health and independence.



## What happens when a report is made?

1. A concerned citizen contacts his/her local APS office to report concerns about the welfare of a senior.
2. The details provided in the report will be screened by a trained professional to evaluate if it meets the statutory requirements for APS services in the state and/or municipality receiving the report.
3. If the situation meets criteria for abuse, neglect or exploitation, an APS worker will initiate face-to-face contact with the adult needing assistance.
4. The APS worker will assess the adult's safety, need for assistance, and determine what services, if any, would be beneficial to maintain his/her well-being and independence.
5. While APS workers help thousands of vulnerable adults every day, individuals always have the right to decline services.

**For more information call 567-393-4729**

# Principles of Adult Protective Services

## **Freedom over Safety**

The client has a right to choose to live at risk of harm, providing she or he is capable of making that choice, harms no one else, and does not commit a crime.

## **Self-Determination**

The client has a right to personal choices and decisions until a time that she or he delegates, or the court grants, the responsibility to someone else.

## **Participation in Decision Making**

The client has a right to receive information to make informed decisions and to participate in all decision making affecting his or her circumstances to the extent able.

## **Least Restrictive Alternative**

The client has a right to service alternatives that maximize choice and minimize life-style disruption.

## **Primacy of the Adult**

The worker has a responsibility to serve the client, not the community people, family member or landlords concerns.

## **Confidentiality**

The client has a right to privacy and secrecy

## **Benefit of Doubt**

If there is evidence that the client is making a reasoned choice, the worker has a responsibility to see that the benefit of doubt is in his or her favor.

## **Do No Harm**

The worker has a responsibility to take no action that places the client at greater risk of harm

## **Avoidance of Blame**

The worker has a responsibility to understand the origins of any maltreatment and to Commit no action that would antagonize the perpetrator and so reduce the chances of terminating the maltreatment.

## **Maintenance of the Family**

The worker has a responsibility to deal with the maltreatment as a family problem, if the perpetrator is a family member, and to try to find the necessary family services to resolve the problem.