

What happens after I call and report possible abuse?

When Adult Protective Services receives a report, it will:

- Evaluate the appropriate next steps and agencies that would be most appropriate to respond;
- Review and investigate the report of suspected abuse;
- Determine if abuse or neglect occurred; and
- Work with law enforcement if a crime was committed.

Can you keep my name confidential if I report abuse?

State law protects your confidentiality when you report abuse. You do not have to give your name if you wish to remain anonymous.

Am I protected if I report abuse?

Yes. Oregon's adult abuse reporting law protects you if you report suspected abuse in good faith.



**Oregon's SAFELINE
1-855-503-SAFE (7233)**



Adult Protective Services
500 Summer Street NE E02
Salem Oregon 97301
Phone: 503-910-8891
TTY: 1-800-282-8096



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For more information and to find
your local office, please visit:
[www.oregon.gov/DHS/abuse/
Pages/index.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/abuse/Pages/index.aspx).

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. Contact Aging and People with Disabilities at 503-945-5811 or 1-800-282-8096 or email APD.APSUnit@dhsosha.state.or.us. We accept all relay calls or you can dial 711.

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Adult Protective Services



What is Adult Protective Services?

The primary responsibility of Adult Protective Services is to receive and investigate allegations of abuse of vulnerable Oregonians living in their own homes and in facilities. Each year, Oregon Department of Human Services and its partners receive thousands of reports of abuse of people who are 65 and over and/or have a physical disability.



What is abuse?

Abuse may include intentional or neglectful acts that either cause or lead to physical or emotional injury. Abuse can happen anywhere: where someone lives, such as a person's own home or the home of family or friend. It can also occur in a professional care setting such as a nursing facility, a residential care facility, an assisted living facility, an adult foster home, a retirement home or a room-and-board home.

Women and men from all ethnic, social and economic backgrounds can be victimized. Perpetrators can be strangers, but more often they are family members, caregivers or someone known to the victim.

What are some types of abuse?

These are the most prevalent types of abuse reported:

- Financial exploitation
- Physical abuse
- Verbal/psychological/emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect
- Self neglect
- Abandonment
- Involuntary seclusion/restraint

Reporting Abuse

While there are many professions in Oregon who are deemed "mandatory reporters" of abuse (meaning by law they must report abuse if they witness it or learn abuse is happening to someone), the health and safety of Oregonians is truly **everyone's responsibility**.

Everyone has a role to prevent and report abuse of vulnerable adults. Adult Protective Services relies on your partnership!

You don't need to be certain that abuse has occurred to make the call. Call even if you suspect someone is suffering harm. It takes all our collective eyes and ears to identify the signs of abuse. Together, we have the power to prevent abuse.

Call **1-855-503-SAFE (7233)** to report abuse from anywhere in Oregon.

Educating our communities

We can all help to prevent and reduce the abuse, exploitation and mistreatment of our most vulnerable neighbors and family members and friends.

Becoming more involved and aware of the signs that an individual is being abused and how to take thoughtful steps to prevent it and reporting suspected abuse to law enforcement or APS will help protect vulnerable Oregonians.

There are experts throughout Oregon who would be happy to come to your workplace, service club or organization and share information on abuse, the warning signs and what to look for, and provide materials to share with your colleagues, friends, family members and neighbors.

In addition, state experts in financial exploitation, guardianships and domestic violence are happy to provide you with information to heighten awareness of the issue. We believe that education and awareness are the key to helping prevent abuse. For more information email: APD. APSUnit@dhsosha.state.or.us.

