

# Report Suspected Abuse **Right** Away

## What rights do Mandatory Reporters have?

A person who reports is immune from civil and criminal liability unless the reporter acted in bad faith or with a malicious purpose.

A person who reports has a right to have his/her identity kept confidential unless consent to reveal his/her identity is given or unless the court orders that the identity of the reporter be revealed.

A person who reports has a right to hear from Adult Protective Services (APS) that the report was investigated.

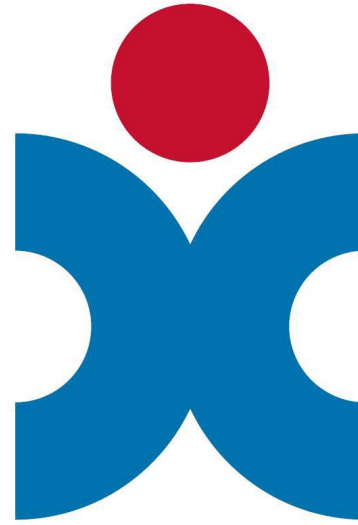
## What will APS do?

An APS worker will interview the person and related parties to determine the facts of the situation. If you have given your name in the report, an APS worker may call you for more information. Your identity will not be revealed to the abuser or to the individual.

### APS Cannot:

- Force adult victims to take help
- Force adult victims to go into a nursing home
- Tell you what happened as the result of your report

**(202) 541-3950**  
**CALL TODAY**



**DC | DEPARTMENT of  
HUMAN SERVICES**

DAVID A. BERNS, DIRECTOR

### Family Services Administration

Adult Protective Services  
64 New York Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
(202) 671-4200  
dhs@dc.gov

D.C. Department of Insurance,  
Securities and Banking  
810 First Street, NE, Ste. 701  
Washington, DC 20002  
(202) 727-8000  
disb@dc.gov



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
VINCENT C. GRAY, MAYOR

Abuse **Can** Happen  
at Any Age...



**Mandatory Reporters:**  
What You Need to Know to  
Save Lives

## Who Are Mandatory Reporters?

### Mandatory And Voluntary Reporters For Adult Protective Services - DC Official Code §7-1903:

*Whenever one of the following people have cause to believe that an adult is in need of protective services because of abuse, neglect or exploitation by another, he or she must immediately report this belief, orally or in writing, to Adult Protective Services:*

- Board of Dentistry
- Board of Dietetics and Nutrition
- Board of Nursing Home Administration
- Board of Occupational Therapy
- Board of Optometry
- Board of Pharmacy
- Board of Physical Therapy
- Board of Podiatry
- Board of Psychology
- Board of Social Work
- Board of Professional Counseling
- Board of Respiratory Care
- Board of Massage Therapy
- Board of Marriage and Family Therapy
- Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology
- Board of Allied Health Executive Director
- Any guardian of an adult
- Any Healthcare administrator
- Any social worker
- Any bank manager or financial manager
- Any court-appointed mental retardation advocate
- Any police officer
- Any human officer of any agency charged with enforcement of animal cruelty laws

***Anyone not listed above may also issue a report to APS. Social workers or licensed health professionals of those responsible for the abuse are not required to report the information to Adult Protective Services.***

## What Should Mandatory Reporters Report?

Mandatory Reporters are required to report suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of elders or incapacitated adults. Reports should provide the name, age, address and location of the person being abused, and as much detail about the abusive situation as possible.

## Who Should Be Contacted?

A Mandatory Reporter must make a report by calling the **Adult Protective Services Hotline at (202) 541-3950** or by faxing a written report to (202) 541-3964. In the event of sexual abuse, serious bodily injury, disease or death believed to be caused by abuse or neglect, and any criminal activity involving abuse or neglect that places the adult in imminent danger, mandatory reporters are required to report to both local departments of social services and law enforcement.

Suspicious deaths must be reported to the local medical examiner and law enforcement. If the case involves financial fraud, contact DC's **Department of Insurance Securities and Banking at (202) 727-8000**.

## How Do I Make A Report?

Contact APS by dialing (202) 541-3950 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Reports can be either oral or written and should include as much of the following information as possible:

- Name, age, physical description and location of the adult alleged to be in need of protective services

- Name and location of the person(s) suspected of being responsible for the abuse, neglect, self-neglect or exploitation;
- Nature and extent of the abuse neglect, self-neglect or exploitation;
- Any other information that the reporters believes might be helpful to the investigation.

## How Soon Should I Report Abuse?

According to District Law §7-1903, all Mandatory Reporters **must immediately report** all suspected incidents of abuse, neglect or exploitation to the proper authority.

## Is There a Penalty for Failure to Report?

Mandatory Reporters who fail to make a report **may be fined up to \$500** for the first failure and up to \$1,000 for subsequent failures.

The penalty for a bank manager or a financial manager **may result in a misdemeanor and a fine up to \$300**. See DC Official Code §7-1912 (a)(1).

## Why Should You Report?

Since persons may be reluctant to report, they need YOU to assist them in getting the needed help. And it's easy.

Call Adult Protective Services at (202) 541-3950. You should call even if all you have is the suspicion of abuse. The social worker will determine if an investigation is warranted.