



**Contact the Department of Health and Hospitals**  
**Office of Aging and Adult Services**  
**Adult Protective Services**  
P. O. Box 3518  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

**You may contact Adult Protective Services by calling**

*(toll-free)*  
**1-800-898-4910**

*(Local - Baton Rouge)*  
**(225) 342-9057**

*or contact your local/state law enforcement agency*

*To report online, visit:*

[www.dhh.louisiana.gov/inquiryform.asp](http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/inquiryform.asp)

*Office of Aging and Adult Services*  
[www.oaas.dhh.louisiana.gov](http://www.oaas.dhh.louisiana.gov)

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# ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES



**What you should know about Abuse, Exploitation, Extortion and Neglect of Adults with Disabilities**

LOUISIANA Department of HEALTH and HOSPITALS  
*Office of Aging and Adult Services*

## REMEMBER

- ▶ Anyone who suspects abuse, neglect, exploitation or extortion of an adult with disabilities is required by law to report their suspicions.
- ▶ Reports may be made 24 hours a day, seven days a week to our toll-free number 1-800-898-4910.
- ▶ Your name will be kept confidential to the extent the law allows. All Adult Protective Services (APS) investigations are confidential.
- ▶ You may report anonymously.
- ▶ Adults with disabilities are often unable or afraid to report about their own situation.

# What you should know and how to help . . .

## The facts.

Adults with disabilities are one of the most abused, neglected and exploited populations in our nation.

Louisiana Law (R.S. 15:1504 A) requires the reporting of abuse, exploitation, extortion, and neglect of adults with disabilities. Failure to report is a crime under R.S. 14:1403.2.

## Who is eligible for adult protective services?

Adults 18-59 years of age, or people under 18 who have been legally declared adults, who have mental, physical or developmental disabilities which substantially impair their ability to care for themselves.

*Some examples include adults with disabilities who are:*

- ▶ Incapable of protecting or taking care of themselves or managing their resources, or
- ▶ Unable to make voluntary choices due to coercion by another party, or
- ▶ Unable to recognize and remedy serious threats to their personal well-being.



## Learn to recognize abuse-exploitation-extortion-neglect



### ABUSE

**PHYSICAL:** Contact or actions that result in injury or pain, such as hitting, pinching, yanking, shoving, pulling hair or dumping from chair.

**EMOTIONAL:** Threats, ridicule, isolation, intimidation or harassment.

**SEXUAL:** Any unwanted sexual activity without regard to contact or injury, any unwanted action with sexual intent, any sexual activity with a person who lacks the capacity to consent.

### EXPLOITATION

The misuse of the adult's money, services, property or power of attorney.

### EXTORTION

Taking a thing of value from an adult by force, intimidation, abuse or neglect.

### NEGLECT

Withholding or not assuring basic necessary care such as food, water, medical service, medicine, shelter, safety or reasonable personal and environmental cleanliness.

**SELF-NEGLECT:** When the adult fails to secure or use basic essentials such as food, medical care, medicine, shelter or utilities, or lives in hazardous conditions.

## Signs of abuse exploitation-extortion neglect

*Some things to alert you to possible abuse/neglect of adults are:*

- ▶ Bruises and skin discoloration
- ▶ Burns, welts, cuts, evidence of bites or bed sores
- ▶ Visitors refused access to the house
- ▶ Withdrawal (refusing to or not allowed to leave home)
- ▶ Unclean, smelly, dirty or inadequate clothes
- ▶ Weight loss, appears hungry, begging or searching for food
- ▶ No utilities
- ▶ Filthy or unsanitary surroundings
- ▶ Use of adult's monies/resources by another
- ▶ Withdrawal of money in substantial amounts
- ▶ Restricted movement, locked in room

## What does the law require?

The Adult Protective Services Laws require[s] that ALL Louisiana citizens report suspected cases of ABUSE, EXPLOITATION, EXTORTION and NEGLECT of adults (ages 18-59) with disabilities. The law grants immunity to any



citizen who reports in good faith. It also provides for fines to be levied on individuals who know of incidents and fail to report.