



courtesy of **Adult Protective Services**



## What is neglect for these individuals?

Neglect includes failures by individuals to support the physical, emotional and social needs of adults dependent on others for their care and well-being. Neglect can take the form of not providing adequate food, medications, or access to health care professionals.

## What are the signs of neglect?

### Physical Neglect

Includes failing to attend to a person's medical, hygienic, nutrition and dietary needs, such as dispensing medications, failing to arrange doctors appointments, changing bandages, bathing, grooming, dressing, or failure to provide ample food to maintain health.

### Emotional Neglect

Failure to meet the individual's emotional well-being such as providing adequate opportunities to socialize with friends and family and engage in meaningful activities.

### Abandonment

This occurs when a caregiver relinquishes his or her caregiving duties and neglects to arrange for sufficient care and support for the individual during his or her absence.

### Financial Neglect

It involves disregarding a person's financial obligations such as failing to pay rent or mortgage, medical insurance or invoices, utility and garbage bills, property taxes and assessments.

## What are some risk factors of neglect?

- ✓ Occurrences of failing to provide needed supervision
- ✓ Instances of abandonment
- ✓ Excessive stress or burden on the caregiver
- ✓ Lack of resources and support for the caregiver
- ✓ Sudden increase in caregiver responsibilities
- ✓ Isolation of caregiver and vulnerable adult

## What if I'm not sure?

Do you just have a "feeling" about a situation but can't verify the details? APS professional workers are trained to handle just such a situation. Based on your report, the agency will assess the situation and determine how best to respond. Your local APS agency can determine the best course of action in any given situation.



**CONTACT APS**

Reach out to Adult Protective Services if you notice signs of neglect:



- ✓ Call 1-833-401-0832
- ✓ Visit <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/adultprotective-services>



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## What is financial exploitation for these individuals?

Financial or material exploitation includes the misuse, mishandling or exploitation of property, possessions, or assets of adults. Also includes using another's assets without consent, under false pretense, or through coercion and/or manipulation.

\* Definitions of financial exploitation vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Please contact your local APS office for additional information.

## What are the signs of financial exploitation?

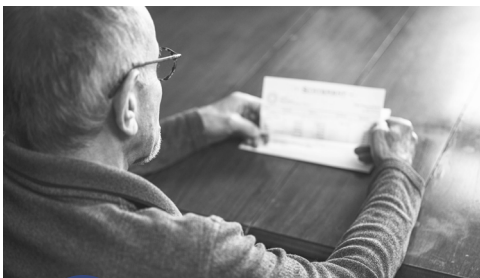
- ✓ Unusual financial activity (e.g. large bank withdrawal or use of ATMs or credit cards not normally used)
- ✓ Missing checks or missing bank statements/records
- ✓ Address or names have been changed on accounts
- ✓ Purchases made without the individual's knowledge or consent
- ✓ Newly authorized signatures on accounts or forged signatures
- ✓ Evidence that the person fell victim to a scam
- ✓ Missing belongings
- ✓ Change to a financial power of attorney
- ✓ Change of ownership of bank accounts or the deed to a physical property such as a home

## What are some risk factors of financial exploitation?

- ✓ Excessive spending or financial donations
- ✓ No oversight of finances
- ✓ Unaware of technology or modern payment methods
- ✓ Cognitive impairment or dementia
- ✓ Social isolation

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## What is self-neglect for these individuals?

Self-neglect involves older adults or adults with disabilities who cannot meet their own essential physical, psychological or social needs, which threatens their health, safety and well-being. This includes failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, and health care for one's own needs.

## What are the signs of self-neglect?

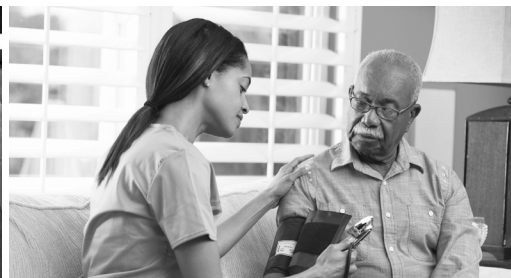
- ✓ Isn't going to the doctor
- ✓ Isn't taking medication as needed
- ✓ Doesn't have food, inadequate nutrition
- ✓ Lives in unsafe housing conditions such as lack of heat, electricity or running water
- ✓ Has poor personal hygiene
- ✓ Lacks/won't allow needed care

## What are some risk factors of self-neglect?

- ✓ Recent widow or loss of loved one
- ✓ Worsening medical problems or a physical disability
- ✓ Lack of outside contact, isolated from friends and family
- ✓ Lack of a caregiver
- ✓ Cognitive impairment, dementia

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### What is physical or sexual abuse for these individuals?

Physical abuse may include slapping, hitting, beating, bruising or causing someone physical pain, injury or suffering. This also could include confining an adult against his/her will, such as locking someone in a room or tying him/her to furniture. Sexual Abuse includes physical force, threats, or coercion to facilitate non-consensual touching, fondling, intercourse or other sexual activities. This is particularly true with vulnerable adults who are unable to give consent or comprehend the nature of these actions.

### What are the signs of physical or sexual abuse?

- ✓ Bruising
- ✓ Unexplained bruising
- ✓ Strangulation
- ✓ Fractures
- ✓ Burns
- ✓ Bed sores
- ✓ Over or under medicating the victim
- ✓ Not wearing appropriate clothing to the weather (such as long sleeves when hot)
- ✓ Controlling access to or the movements of an individual

### What are some risk factors? \*

- ✓ Family crisis or family members are suffering from stress
- ✓ Domestic issues causing violence or conflict in the home
- ✓ Depression, unusual fears or sudden loss of self-confidence
- ✓ Noticeable withdrawal and lack of socialization
- ✓ Loneliness and isolation

\*The presence of warning signs doesn't necessarily mean that the adult is being abused.

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