WHY SHOULD YOU REPORT?

Many adults with disabilities 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.

You should call even if you only suspect abuse. The details provided in the report will be screened by a trained professional to evaluate if it meets the statutory requirements for APS services investigation or intervention. If the situation meets criteria for abuse, neglect or financial exploitation, an APS worker will initiate face-to-face contact with the adult needing assistance The APS worker will also 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.

If the concern is a life threatening or emergency situation, please contact your local law enforcement agency or 911.

If you have given your name in the report, an APS worker may call you to get more details about the situation. Your identity will not be revealed to the victim or the abuser.

ADRC
Aging and Disability Resource Center of Milwaukee County

1220 W. Vliet St.
Suite 300
Milwaukee, WI 53205

(414) 289-6660

(844) 304-6660

FAX: (414) 289-8570

TRS: 711

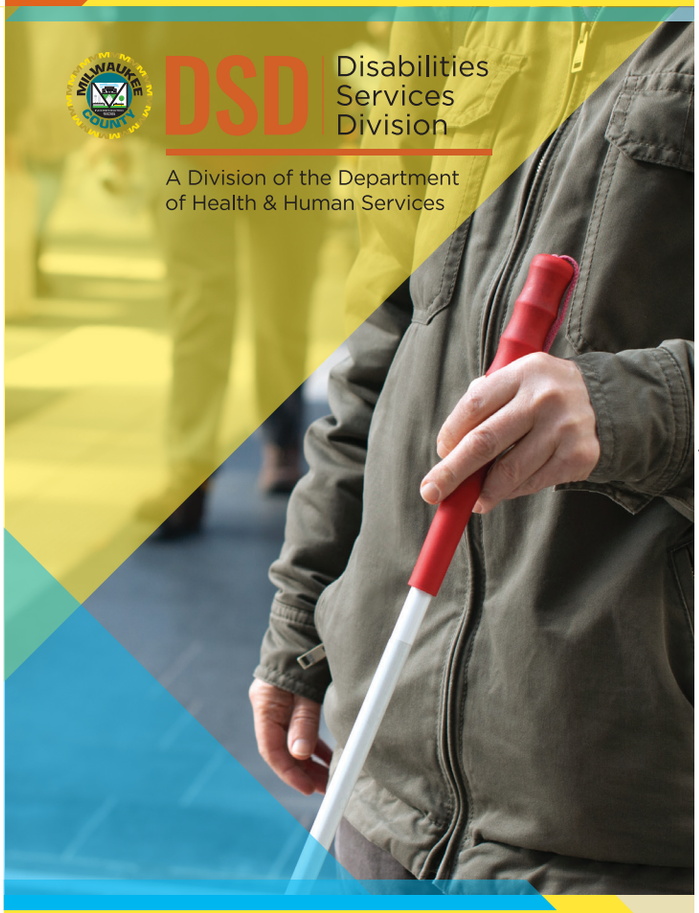
DSD@milwaukeecountywi.gov

county.milwaukee.gov/DSD

DHHS Department of Health & Human Services

Together, creating healthy communities.

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES



Anyone can become a victim, and anyone can be an abuser

Serving ages 18-59

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WHAT DOES ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES (APS) DO?

An APS worker will initiate face-to-face contact with the adult needing assistance. They may also work closely with a wide variety of individuals familiar with the client, including non-professionals and professionals alike.

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.

While APS workers help thousands of vulnerable adults every day, individuals always have the right to decline services.

APS will not share specific details of an accepted investigation with the reporter. The APS worker may only discuss details of an investigation or intervention with the at-risk adult themselves, or other's providing direct services and supports to the client.

IDENTIFY THE SIGNS

- Bruises, burns, cuts, scratches
- Sprains, fractures, dislocations
- Sexual abuse
- Untreated medical condition(s)
- Unsafe or unsanitary housing
- Lack of medications or equipment
- Mental anguish and distress
- Misappropriation of income or assets
- Unpaid utility, cost share, and other bills
- Mismanaged property or savings
- Sudden change in will or power of attorney
- Unable to provide needed care

HOW TO REFER SOMEONE FOR HELP

When you suspect mistreatment of an adult with a disability, you should refer to Adult Protective Services by contacting Milwaukee County DHHS Disabilities Services Division (DSD).

Contact information for DSD is listed at our website:

https://county.milwaukee.gov/DSD

When you contact Adult Protective Services your name is kept confidential.

Give as much information as you know about the suspected abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation. All information is taken seriously and may help protect the adult with a disability.

The primary goal of Adult Protective Services is to promote safety, independence, and quality-of-life for vulnerable and at-risk adults and persons with disabilities who are being mistreated or are in danger of being mistreated, and who are unable to protect themselves"

Every action taken by Adult Protective Services must balance the duty to protect the safety of the vulnerable adult with the adult's right to self-determination.

Division professionals are eager to provide assistance to ensure that Milwaukee County residents with disabilities who are victims of abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation are treated with honesty, care, and respect.

Our purpose is to empower safe, healthy, meaningful lives by connecting individuals with disabilities to resources that promote independence and inclusion.

Empowering People | Strengthening Community

Milwaukee County DHHS Disabilities Services Division receives and evaluates reports of abuse, neglect and financial exploitation to determine whether adults with disabilities ages 18-59 are in need of protective placement, and what services are needed as required by Wisconsin State Statute 55.01