



Adult Protective Services

What is neglect?

Neglect includes the refusal or failure to provide an individual with life necessities, such as food, water, shelter, personal hygiene, medicine, physical or mental health care, comfort, personal safety, services, or adequate supervision. It can be intentional or unintentional. Unintentional neglect may result from ignorance or denial that an individual needs as much care as they do.



What are the signs of neglect?

Abandonment

Abandonment occurs when a caregiver relinquishes their caregiving duties and neglects to arrange for sufficient care and support for the individual during their absence.

Emotional Neglect

Emotional neglect includes failure to meet the individual's emotional well-being, such as providing adequate opportunities to socialize and engage in meaningful activities. It can also be emotional neglect if a caregiver or family member displays an obvious indifference or anger towards the individual.

Financial Neglect

Financial neglect involves disregarding an individual's financial obligations, such as failing to pay rent or mortgage, medical insurance or invoices, utility and garbage bills, property taxes and assessments, and vehicle and vehicle insurance bills.

Physical Neglect

Physical neglect includes failing to provide safe and clean living conditions or failing to attending to a person's medical, hygienic, nutritional, and dietary needs. Examples include failing to properly dispense medications; arrange doctors appointments; provide ample food to maintain health; or bathe, groom, or dress the individual.

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 have a "feeling" about a situation but aren't sure of the details? APS professionals are trained to assess each situation and offer services and support to promote safety, independence, and quality of life.



CONTACT APS

Reach out to your local APS agency if you notice signs of neglect:

If the suspected abuse is an emergency—a life-threatening situation or one involving immediate danger—call the police or 911 immediately.

- ✓ [To report abuse of an adult at risk](#) (age 18 to 59), call your county or tribal helpline.
- ✓ [To report abuse of an elder adult at risk](#) (age 60+), call your county or tribal helpline or the Elder Abuse Hotline at 833-586-0107.



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