



## Adult Protective Services

### What is self-neglect?

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 or adequate nutrition
- ✓ Lives in unsafe housing conditions such as lack of heat, electricity, or running water
- ✓ Has poor personal hygiene
- ✓ Lacks or won't allow needed care

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

- ✓ Recent loss of partner or loved one
- ✓ Worsening medical problems or a physical disability
- ✓ Lack of outside contact or isolation from friends and family
- ✓ Lack of a caregiver
- ✓ Cognitive impairment or dementia
- ✓ Mental illness

### 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 self-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.



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT  
of HEALTH SERVICES