



**ARAPAHOE COUNTY**  
COLORADO'S FIRST

Communication Services  
5334 South Prince Street  
Littleton, Colorado 80120-1136  
Phone: 303-795-5467 | Fax: 303-734-5470  
TDD: 303-795-4644  
[www.arapahoegov.com](http://www.arapahoegov.com)

# News Release

**For release: June 05, 2014**

Contact:

**YVETTE YEON**

*Communication Services Specialist II*

Direct: 303-636-1945

Mobile: 720-785-0714

Email: [yyeon@arapahoegov.com](mailto:yyeon@arapahoegov.com)

## **Adult protection cases to rise with new mandated reporter law** *Changes coming for at-risk elders in Arapahoe County*

**Littleton, Colo.** – We are less than a month away before a new law aiming to help abused and exploited elderly citizens goes into effect. Starting July 1, mandatory reporters will be required to report any incidents of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of anyone over the age of 70 to law enforcement within 24 hours of observing the abuse. Violators may face legal penalties.

Mandatory reporters include: doctors, nurses, chiropractors, law enforcement officers, dentists, nursing home staff and home health care workers.

“If you believe an elder you know is being abused and neglected, don’t take a chance, just report it,” said Arapahoe County Commissioner Nancy Sharpe. “You could be saving a life, so please call our abuse and neglect hotline at 303-636-1750.”

Commissioner Sharpe represented counties on a statewide Elder Abuse Task Force whose recommendations helped to usher in the new legislation.

This is a good time to take a closer look at what many unfortunate seniors and adults go through every day. June 15 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, a date that draws attention to thousands of seniors and adults with disabilities who are abused, neglected or financially exploited by caregivers or relatives. It also highlights many vulnerable adults who self-neglect because they are unable to care for their own medical, hygiene or nutritional needs.

Arapahoe County is home to more than 41,000 adults age 70 and older. In 2013, the County’s Human Services Department received and investigated 705 abuse and neglect reports concerning adults over age 18.

Caseloads are expected to rise once mandatory reporting becomes law. In order to better prepare mandatory reporters, the Colorado Department of Human Services, Adult Protective Services unit has made available an on-line training program at [www.coloradocwts.com](http://www.coloradocwts.com)

Together we can help the elders who need to depend on others to advocate for their safety.

###

To download photos, please click the link: <ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/>