

Who is a Mandatory Reporter?

Effective July 1, 2014

The following professionals are required by Colorado law to report to law enforcement if they observe or suspect physical or sexual abuse, caretaker neglect or exploitation of any person age 70 and older:

- Physicians, surgeons, physician assistants, osteopaths, physicians in training, podiatrists, occupational therapists, medical examiners, coroners, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, nurse practitioners, dentists, pharmacists, physical therapists, and chiropractors.
- Hospital and long term care facility personnel engaged in the admission, care, or treatment of patients, and emergency medical service providers.
- Psychologists, other mental health professionals and social work practitioners.
- Law enforcement officials and personnel, fire protection personnel, court appointed guardians and conservators.
- Community centered board staff.
- Personnel of banks, savings and loan associations, credit unions, and other lending or financial institutions.
- Clergy.
- Caretakers, staff members, employees, volunteers, or consultants for a licensed or certified care facility, agency home, or governing board, including but not limited to home health providers

Department of Human Services
Adult Protection Services
14980 E. Alameda Drive
Aurora, CO 80012



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
COLORADO'S FIRST

How to Report Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of At-Risk Adults

and Colorado's Mandatory Reporting Law



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Department of Human Services
Adult Protection Services
303-636-1750
www.arapahoegov.com



What is Adult Protection?

Many citizens are familiar with the child welfare system, but few realize that Colorado counties also have an adult protection system.

The Arapahoe County Department of Human Services receives more than 1,000 calls each year about vulnerable seniors and disabled adults age 18 and older who are being abused, neglected and financially exploited by caregivers or relatives.

Just like children, these vulnerable adults cannot protect themselves. They may be frail, elderly, suffer dementia or cognitive impairments, or have physical impairments, developmental disabilities or other disabling conditions.

At-risk adults may also self-neglect because they are unable to perform or obtain services necessary for their health, safety or welfare.

Our Adult Protective Services Team investigates these reports, provides casework and counseling services, coordinates services to assist and protect the individual, and makes referrals to community resources to ensure the adult's safety and wellbeing.

Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation

Exploitation means taking an at-risk adult's money or other assets against their will or without their knowledge. It also means deceiving, harassing, intimidating or using undue influence to get the adult to do something against their will.

Neglect occurs when an at-risk adult's caretaker fails to make sure the adult has adequate food, clothing, shelter, psychological, physical or medical care, or supervision.

Self-Neglect occurs when an at-risk adult cannot or does not care for him/herself. Choice of lifestyle, by itself, is not proof of self-neglect.

Physical Abuse is hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, burning, confining or restraining an adult.

Sexual Abuse is sexual activity or touching without the adult's consent or understanding.

How to Report Concerns

All citizens and mandatory reporters are strongly urged to report any concerns for the safety and welfare of any vulnerable adult age 18 and older to their local county Department of Human Services.

In Arapahoe County, please call 303-636-1750. Each report is confidential and you can remain anonymous. In case of an emergency, please call 911.

Mandatory Reporters

Certain professionals in Colorado are required by law to report when they:

- Observe physical or sexual abuse, caretaker neglect, or exploitation of any person age 70 or older, or
- Have reasonable cause to believe that a person age 70 or older has been physically or sexually abused, neglected or exploited and is at imminent risk.

Mandatory reporters **must report** to the local law enforcement agency within 24 hours of learning of mistreatment.

This responsibility extends beyond the professional's work hours to any at-risk elder they encounter in their personal lives.

See reverse for a list of mandatory reporters.

What to Report

When making a report to law enforcement or to a local county, please be prepared to provide as much information as possible, including:

- The name, address, approximate age and current location of the at-risk adult.
- Specific concerns regarding the alleged mistreatment or self-neglect.
- The alleged perpetrator's name, address, phone number and relationship to the at-risk adult.
- Contact information for friends, family or caregivers.
- Any other relevant information.