



ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES



ORANGE COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY
PROTECTING ORANGE COUNTY ELDER AND DEPENDENT ADULTS

Adult Protective Services (APS) is a program designed to prevent and remedy the abuse, neglect, or exploitation of elders and dependent adults who have been harmed or are at risk of harm.

Elder: Any person age 65 or greater.

Dependent Adult: Any person between the ages of 18 and 64 years, who has physical or mental limitations that restrict his or her abilities to carry out normal activities or to protect his or her rights or whose physical or mental abilities have diminished because of age.

FUNCTIONS OF APS:

- Investigate suspected abuse of elders and dependent adults
- Establish linkages with local community agencies
- Provide crisis intervention

WHAT APS MAY NOT DO:

- Remove a client from their home or shelter against their will
- Force a client to accept services

The APS program is not intended to interfere with the lifestyle choices of elders or dependent adults, or to protect those individuals from all the consequences of such choices.

If you, or someone you know is the victim of abuse, please call:

(800) 451-5155

APS EMERGENCY RESPONSE IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY

TYPES OF ABUSE:

Physical Abuse: Assault/battery (beating, slapping, pushing, kicking), sexual exploitation, restrictions on freedom of movement, overmedication, withholding food or water.

Financial Abuse: The illegal or improper exploitation of funds or other resources, including theft, extortion, and fraud.

Psychological Abuse: Verbal harassment, threats, or other intimidating behavior that results in fear, agitation, confusion, severe depression or other forms of serious emotional distress.

Neglect: Failure of a caregiver to provide basic necessities such as adequate food or water, shelter, medical treatment or personal care.

Abandonment: The desertion or willful forsaking of an elder or dependent adult by anyone having care or custody of that person under circumstances in which a reasonable person would continue to provide care and custody.

Abduction: The removal from this state and the restraint from returning to this state of any elder or dependent adult who does not have the capacity to consent to this removal.

Isolation: Actions which prevent an elder or dependent adult from receiving mail or telephone calls. Falsely telling callers or prospective visitors that the elder or dependent adult does not want contact, if the purpose is to prevent contact with family, friends, or concerned persons. Isolation includes false imprisonment and physical restraints, which prevent an elder or dependent adult from meeting with others.

Self-Neglect: An elder or dependent adult is unable to manage his/her personal needs in the areas of health care, food, shelter or finances, or cannot handle the basic activities of daily living.