

Adult Abuse/ Neglect / Exploitation

**Satellite Conference and Live Webcast
Wednesday, July 16, 2008
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. (Central Time)**

Alabama Public Health Training Network

Faculty

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Adult Protective Services
Alabama Department of Human Resources**

**More than 845,000 people
are disabled or elderly in the
State of Alabama.**

The Adult Protective Service Act

Enacted in 1977

**Changes in 1989, 1999, and
2000**

Coverage

- **Adults: persons 18 years or older.**
- **Mentally / physically incapable of caring for self or managing own affairs**
- **Because of physical/mental impairment, unable to protect self from abuse/neglect/exploitation, and**
- **No guardian, relative, or others to provide protection to the degree needed.**

Mandatory Reporters

- **Physicians**
- **Practitioners of the healing arts**
- **Caregivers**
- **Community Ombudsman**

Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation

Domestic

Institutional

Self

ABUSE:

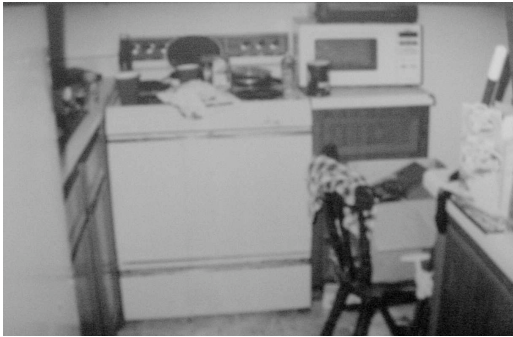
- **Infliction of physical pain or injury or willful deprivation of services necessary for the person's mental and physical health by caretaker.**



NEGLECT:

- **Failure of the caretaker to provide food, shelter, clothing, medical services, and/or health care to a person unable to care for him/herself due to mental or physical inability.**





EXPLOITATION:

- Expenditure, diminution, or use of property, assets, or resources of a person without express voluntary consent of the person or the person's legally authorized representative.

INDICATORS

PHYSICAL ABUSE

- Bruises or grip marks
- Rope marks or welts
- Repeated unexplained injuries
- Dismissive attitude
- Refusal to go to same Doctor or ER

Emotional Abuse

- Unresponsive
- Unreasonably fearful or suspicious
- Lack of interest in social contacts
- Chronic physical or mental health problems
- Evasiveness

Sexual Abuse

- Unexplained vaginal or anal bleeding
- Torn or bloody underwear
- Bruised breasts
- Venereal diseases or vaginal infections

NEGLECT:

Active

Passive

Self

Neglect

- Disconnected utilities
- Crowded living conditions
- Inadequate housing
- Inadequate clothing
- Lack of food
- Multiple unused prescription medications

Exploitation

- Large withdrawals from bank accounts, switching accounts, unusual ATM activity
- Signatures on checks don't match adult's signature
- Presence of adults in the home who do not have incomes but have addictions
- Change of title to property

Perpetrators

- Usually Related
- Do Not Understand Care Needs
- Misuse Drugs or Alcohol
- Dependent on Victim
- History of Domestic Abuse
- Multiple Stressors Present

Indicators of Perpetrators

Where to Report

- County Department of Human Resources
- Law Enforcement
- Elder Abuse Hotline 1-800-458-7214



DHR Authority And Responsibility

No DHR Investigation

As of 8/1/2000 there is no investigation in nursing home reports in which an employee is the alleged perpetrator;

exception:
exploitation



No DHR Investigation

State owned and operated Mental Health facilities or Correctional facilities:

- Alice Kidd Nursing Facility
- Greil Memorial Hospital
- Mary Stark Harper Geriatric Psychiatry Center
- Partlow School and Hospital
- Taylor Hardin Secure Medical Facility
- Bryce Hospital
- North Alabama Regional Hospital
- Searcy Hospital

COLLABORATION



- DHR
- Law Enforcement
- Physicians and other health care professionals
- Community Resources

Services

LEGAL

- **Emergency Placement**
- **Placement**
- **Services**
- **Protection from Abuse Order**
- **Commitment**
- **Guardian and Conservator**
- **Motion to Freeze Assets**

On-Going Adult Protective Services

Develop Case Plan to Provide Protection
Re-evaluate every six months
(Foster Care every three months)

Questions