

Reporting Adult Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation (AANE)

Alabama Code 38-9-8 requires physicians, practitioners of the healing arts, and caregivers, to report suspected AANE. Immunity of reporter from civil and criminal liability is provided through this code. Professionals should recognize that older and disabled adults are among the most vulnerable people in our society, and that professionals who come in contact with them have both an opportunity and a duty to report in order to provide assistance and protection to them. If AANE is suspected call **1-800-458-7214**, the County Department of Human Resources or local law enforcement to make a report.

INDICATORS OF ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND EXPLOITATION

Physical and Emotional Indicators

Cuts, lacerations, puncture wounds
Bruises, welts, discoloration
Pallor or poor skin hygiene
Sunken eyes or cheeks
Eye problems: retinal detachment, black eyes
Pulled out hair
Torn, stained or bloody underclothing
Burns such as though left by ropes, cigarettes, and acids
Locked in room, tied to furniture or toilet
Withdrawn, depressed, resigned, helpless
Hesitates to talk openly
Denies problems
Appears fearful of caregiver or family member
Has lost touch with family and friends other than caregiver

Financial Indicators

Unpaid bills when income is adequate
Personal loans not repaid
Missing checks, jewelry or other valuables
Power of Attorney signed by confused person
Suspicious changes in titles of property
Unusual activity in bank accounts
Checks / documents signed when person cannot write
Caretaker more concerned with person's finances than with the quality of their care

Neglect

Unsanitary living conditions, infestations of roaches /rats
Human or animal waste on floors / furniture
Unsafe home (rotting floors/ ceiling falling)
No toilet or commode
No drinkable water
House filled with dirty trash
Dehydration, malnourishment, weight loss
Soiled clothing or bed; left in own waste
Unable to perform activities of daily living
Untreated medical conditions / injuries
Unwashed hair, unclean, unshaven
Clothing inappropriate for weather, filthy, torn,
Wandering / hallucinating / delusional / confused

Family / Caregiver

Indifference or hostility to person
Excessive blaming of person
Problems with alcohol or drugs
Previous history of violence
Failure to comply with care plan
Social isolation of the person, with holding of affection
Conflicting accounts of incidents