

# Mandated Reporting

A Mandated Reporter is any care custodian, health practitioner, IHSS Provider, employee of a county social services agency or local law enforcement agency, who is required by law to report any suspected abuse. California State law states a Mandated Reporter is required to report any suspected abuse of an elderly person, dependent adult or child, but **anyone** who suspects abuse can make the call.

Abuse can be expressed in many different forms. It can be a recent or an ongoing threat to the safety of an individual. Abusers can be anyone, including family members, neighbors or friends. Elderly, dependent adults and children often need assistance in protecting themselves from abuse.

**Failure to report an incident** by a Mandated Reporter is a crime punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for up to 6 months, a fine of up to \$1,000 or both imprisonment and a fine.

## What Is Abuse?

The following are examples of potential abuse.

### Physical Abuse/Neglect

- Cuts, lacerations, bruises, welts
- Any injury incompatible with the history of the Consumer
- Poor skin care or hygiene
- Absence of hair and/or hemorrhaging below scalp
- Dehydration, malnourishment or weight loss without illness related cause
- Cigarette burns or rope marks
- Soiled clothing or bedding

### **Financial Abuse**

- Unusual or inappropriate activity in bank accounts
- Power of attorney given or recent changes of a will when Consumer is clearly incapable of making such decisions
- Lack of affordable amenities
- Unpaid bills, overdue statements or rent when someone else is responsible for paying these bills
- Missing personal belongings such as silverware or jewelry
- Deliberate isolation from friends and family

### **Self Neglect**

- Inability to manage finances
- Inability to manage activities of daily living - personal care, shopping, meal preparation, domestic services, etc.
- Suicidal acts, wanderings, refusing medical attention or isolation
- Lack of toilet facilities, utilities or animal infested living quarters making the living quarters dangerous
- Changes in intellectual functioning, confusion, disorientation or memory failure

### **Psychological Abuse**

- Hesitation to talk openly
- Implausible, conflicting stories
- Confusion, disorientation, denial, agitation or depression
- Exaggerated fear

## **To Report Suspected Abuse, Call...**

### **Nevada County**

Adult Protective Services:

*(530) 265-1639*

*After Hours Emergency Only...(530) 265-1217*

(530) 265-1340 Child Protective Services:  
*After Hours Emergency Only...(530) 265-9380*

**Plumas County**

Adult Protective Services:  
(530) 283-6350  
*After Hours Emergency Only...(530) 283-6300*

Child Protective Services:  
(530) 283-6350  
*After Hours Emergency Only...(530) 283-6300*

**Sierra County**

Adult Protective Services:  
(530) 993-6721  
*After Hours Emergency Only...(530) 289-3720*

Child Protective Services:  
(530) 289-3720  
*After Hours Emergency Only...(530) 289-3720*