

The **mission** of the Adult Protective Services of Summit County is to provide a quality continuum of services to at risk elderly citizens in Summit County.

Our **goal** is to prevent, reduce or remedy conditions causing endangerment to adults 60 years and older. This will be accomplished through planning, coordinating, facilitating, advocating and providing appropriate services in a manner which is responsive, respectful and promotes the well being of the individual.

#### **Legal Mandate to Report**

Attorneys, Physicians, Osteopaths, Podiatrists, Chiropractors, Dentists, Psychologists, Hospital employees (ORC 3701.01), Nurses licensed under Chapter 4723(ORC), Employees of an Ambulatory Health Facility, Home Health Agency, Adult Care Facility (ORC 3722.01), Community Alternative Home employee (ORC 3724.01), Employees of Nursing Homes, Residential Care Facilities, or Home for the Aging, (ORC 3721.01), Senior Service Providers, Peace Officers, Coroners, Clergymen, Employees of a Community Mental Health Facility, and any person(s) engaged in social work or counseling having reasonable cause to believe that an adult is being abused, neglected, or exploited, or is in a condition which is the result of abuse, neglect, or exploitation shall immediately report such belief to the County Department of Human Services.

Any person who makes a report in response to the legal mandate (ORC 5101.61) shall be immune from civil or criminal liability unless acting with malicious intent. No employer or other authority figure shall in any way retaliate against an employee for reporting.

#### **Investigate and Planning Process**

Cases that have been accepted by the Intake Worker are assigned to a Protective Services Social Worker for investigation of the allegation. The Social Worker will initiate activity of the investigation within no more than three working days and will meet with the client for a face to face interview within seven working days. Immediate action will be taken to protect the adult as warranted.

The Social Worker will complete an assessment of the client's situation and risk for abuse, neglect, or exploitation with the first thirty days of case activity. An individual treatment plan is devised with the client base on needs. Services will be arranged recognizing the client's right for self-determination. Types of Adult Protective Services may include: medical care, mental health services, legal advice, money management, home support services, referrals for community resources, and in some cases, guardianship or placement services.

Seeing a senior citizen subjected to abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or exploitation is difficult. If the victim is competent to make decisions, he or she has the right to decide to accept or refuse the services offered.

Our responsibility is to inform older adults of their rights, investigate the report, assist in planning and provide services, if available. Our commitment is to do this in the most dignified and least restrictive way possible in accordance with the needs and wishes of the person served.

#### **Questions?**

Call 330-643-7174 or visit the Summit County Web site at [www.co.summit.oh.us](http://www.co.summit.oh.us).



James B. McCarthy, Summit County Executive



**SUMMIT COUNTY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF JOB & FAMILY SERVICES**

Daisy L. Alford-Smith, Ph.D., Director

Summit County  
Department of Job & Family Services

# Adult Protective Services



A Community Reference Guide for reporting abuse, neglect and exploitation of adults residing in Summit County and for accessing protective services.

*...building stronger families  
for a better community*

# Adult Protective Services (APS)

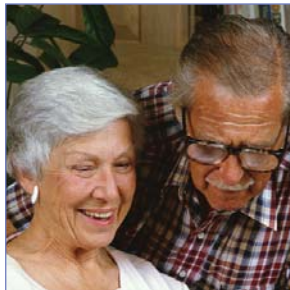
are intended to assist impaired adults who may be harmed due to abuse, neglect or exploitation. The Adult Protective Services for Adults Law was passed in Ohio in 1981 (ORC 5101.60). The law requires reports of suspected abuse, neglect and/or self-neglect and exploitation of impaired adults age 60 and older who reside in the community. Reports are confidential. The goals of protective services are to reduce, remedy and prevent the reoccurrence of conditions causing endangerment. To maximize the adult's independence and to prevent unnecessary institutionalization.

## Definitions

“**Abuse**” means the infliction upon an adult by him/herself or others of injury, unreasonable confinement, intimidation, or cruel punishment with resulting physical harm, pain, or mental anguish.

“**Neglect**” means self-neglect and/or the failure of an adult or caretaker to provide goods or services necessary to avoid physical harm, mental anguish, or mental illness.

“**Exploitation**” means the unlawful or improper act of a caretaker using an adult or his resources for monetary or personal benefit, profit, or gain.



## Some Indicators of:

### Abuse

- Verbal abuse
- Multiple or severe bruises or burns
- Client expresses fear
- Restrained, tied, locked in
- Multiple or severe bruises or burns
- Broken bones or wounds
- Injuries at several stages

### Neglect and Self-endangering behaviors

- Suicidal acts
- Wandering
- Refuses medical treatment
- Confusion
- Inability to care for self
- Malnourishment
- Untreated medical conditions
- Homeless
- Life threatening behaviors
- Dirt, fleas, lice
- Bedsores
- Ulcerated sores
- Fecal/urine odor
- Animal infestation

### Exploitation

- Misuse of person, funds, property or possessions

### Case Acceptance Criteria for Investigation

The Law establishes the following criteria:

- Persons 60 years of age and over with a physical and/or mental impairment which prevents him/her from providing for his/her own care or protection
- Suspicion of abuse, neglect, self-neglect or exploitation.
- Residing in an independent or assisted living arrangement.

### The Intake Social Worker will ask the following questions:

- What is the problem?
- What is the risk to the adult?
- How is the adult unable to provide for/protect self?
- How long has this situation existed?
- What has changed recently that prompted your call?
- Who is helping with the problem and how?
- What is the potential for danger/violence?
- Who is aware of the referral?

It is the responsibility of the Intake Social Worker to obtain information and make a determination whether criteria have been met.

### Report that will not be accepted include:

- Persons under 60 years of age
- Persons who have a guardian, when no abuse, neglect, self neglect, or exploitation is alleged.
- A case where the sole focus is prevention without a known history of abuse, neglect, self neglect or exploitation.
- Persons eligible for protective services for the Summit County Board of Mental Retardation/Development Disabilities.
- Persons who reside in a nursing home (call Ohio Department of Health at 1-800-342-0553).



To make a referral to  
Adult Protective Services

Call 24 Hour Intake/Hotline

**330.643.7217**