Guide for Reporting Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of Disabled Adults

The NC Law Applies to Disabled Adults...
who might be abused, neglected or exploited and might be in need of protective services

Definitions and Indicators

**Disabled Adult:**
Over 18 and physically or mentally incapacitated.

**Common Behavioral Indicators**
- Avoidance of eye contact
- Hesitance to talk openly
- Change in appetite or sleep patterns
- Radical change in behavior
- Confusion
- Suspicious or paranoid behavior
- Depression
- Withdrawal

**Caretaker:**
Anyone who has responsibility for the care of an adult by family relationship, contract or who voluntarily assumes the responsibility.

**Abuse:**
Willful infliction of physical pain, injury, mental anguish, unreasonable confinement or willful deprivation by a caretaker of services which are necessary to maintain mental and physical health.

**Indicators:**
- Unusual and unexplained bruises, welts, fractures and bumps:
  - In various states of healing
  - In shape of an object (rope, belt, restraints, electric bumper)
- Bed sores, weight loss or dry skin and lips
- Clothing inappropriate for temperature and conditions
- Inadequate shelter or medical care
- Excessive sweating or chills
- Willful confinement in a dangerous environment

**Self Neglect:**
Disabled adult who lives alone or has no caretaker and is not able to provide necessary services to maintain his/her mental and physical health.

**Indicators:**
- Forgetfulness in or turning off stove or gas
- Aimless wandering at night
- Inability to cook, eat, bathe, toilet, dress or care for one’s self
- Unusual thinness, dehydration
- Causing small fires
- Living in an unsafe dwelling or environment
- Inappropriate use of medications
- Inability to communicate

**Caretaker Neglect:**
Failure of the caretaker to provide services necessary to avoid physical harm, mental anguish or mental illness to the disabled adult.

**Indicators:**
- Failure to provide adequate food, shelter, clothing and attention to personal and incidental needs
- Failure by caretaker to provide or for medical needs
- Failure to manage resources to meet needs
- Failure to provide a safe living situation
- Failure to provide appropriate supervision

**Exploitation:**
Illegal or improper use of the disabled adult or his resources for another’s profit or advantage.

**Indicators:**
- Unexplained withdrawal of money from bank accounts
- Use of deceit, treachery or coercion to obtain money or assets
- Inappropriate sexual activity
- Unusual interest by anyone in the disabled adult’s assets
- Difference between assets and lifestyle
- Unusually large payment for services
- Mismanagement of person’s funds (failure to pay for essential services)
If you have any reason to believe an elder or adult with disabilities is being abused, neglected, or exploited then you are required by NC law to make a report.

WHEN IN DOUBT...
MAKE A REPORT

BUNCOMBE COUNTY
Health & Human Services: 828-250-5800
Sheriff’s Office: 828-250-6670
Asheville Police Department: 828-252-1110
Biltmore Forest Police Department: 828-274-0822
Black Mountain Police Department: 828-419-9350
Weaverville Police Department: 828-645-5700
Woodfin Police Department: 828-253-4889

HENDERSON COUNTY
Social Services: 828-694-6241
Sheriff’s Office: 828-697-4596

MADISON COUNTY
Social Services: 828-649-2711
Sheriff’s Office: 828-649-2721

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY
Social Services: 828-884-3174
Sheriff’s Office: 828-884-3188