

## What happens after a report of abuse?

Local aging and disability and AAA offices:

- Provide protective services;
- Investigate reports of suspected abuse;
- Determine if abuse or neglect occurred; and
- Work with law enforcement if there may be a crime.

## Can you keep my name confidential if I report abuse?

State law protects your confidentiality when you report abuse. Your identity can only be given under specific legal exceptions. For example, when there is a report of a crime or an order by a judge. You do not have to give your name if you wish to remain anonymous.



## Does the law offer protection for mandatory reporters?

**Yes.** Oregon's adult abuse reporting law protects mandatory reporters, if you report suspected abuse in good faith. If you do so, then you are safe from civil and criminal liability.

To report abuse call  
**1-855-503-SAFE (7233)**  
or your local DHS office.

For more information and to find your local office please visit  
[www.oregon.gov/DHS/abuse/Pages/index.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/abuse/Pages/index.aspx).

# Reporting Abuse of Older Adults and People with Physical Disabilities



You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. Contact Aging and People with Disabilities at 503-945-5811 or 1-800-282-8096 or email [APD.APSUnit@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:APD.APSUnit@dhsosha.state.or.us). We accept all relay calls or you can dial 711.





Abuse robs older adults and people with physical disabilities of health, safety and property. We can commit to improving their quality of life through prevention and reporting.

## What is “adult abuse”?

Adults:

- Age 65 and older
- Age 18 and older who have physical disabilities

Abuse includes:

- Physical harm or injury;
- Failure to provide basic care;
- Financial exploitation;
- Verbal or emotional abuse;
- Involuntary seclusion;
- Wrongful restraint;
- Unwanted sexual contact;
- Abandonment by the caregiver; or
- Self-neglect (when individuals lack the cognitive ability to care for themselves, which can lead to harm).

## Where does adult abuse occur?

Abuse can happen wherever someone lives. Examples are:

- A person’s own home or a family or friend’s home;
- A nursing facility;
- A residential care facility;
- An assisted living facility;
- An adult foster home; or
- In public (supermarkets, restaurants, malls, etc.).

## How big a problem is adult abuse?

Each year, there are tens of thousands of complaints of adult abuse and self-neglect in Oregon. Taking these reports are:

- Department of Human Services (DHS);
- Local offices of aging and adults with physical disabilities (APD); and
- Local Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs)

As baby boomers age, these numbers will grow. In 2020, 17.6 percent of Oregon’s population is 65 or older. In 2030, 20 percent will be 65 or older.



## Who should report abuse?

Everyone can and should report abuse. We all have a responsibility to protect those who cannot protect themselves. Certain people are “mandatory reporters.” This means by Oregon law they must report (ORS 124.050).

## Who is a mandatory reporter?

You are a mandatory reporter 24/7 if you are a(an):

- Physician, psychiatrist, naturopathic physician, osteopathic physician, chiropractor, podiatric physician, physician assistant, or surgeon including any intern or resident;
- Licensed practical nurse, registered nurse, nurse practitioner, nurse’s aide, home health aide, or employee of an in-home health service;
- Employee of DHS or Oregon Health Authority (OHA), county health department, community mental health program, developmental disabilities program or an Area Agency on Aging (AAA);
- Employee of a nursing facility or an individual who contracts to provide services to a nursing facility;
- Peace officer;

- Member of the clergy;
- Psychologist, regulated social worker, licensed professional counselor or licensed marriage and family therapist;
- Physical therapist, speech therapist, occupational therapist, audiologist or speech language pathologist;
- Information and referral or outreach worker;
- Senior center employee;
- Firefighter or emergency medical services provider;
- Adult foster home licensee or an employee of the licensee;
- Member of the Oregon Legislature or their staff;
- Attorney;
- Dentist or optometrist;
- Homecare worker;
- Personal support worker; or
- Referral agent.

**Note:** For any resident in a nursing facility, this also includes the following:

- Legal counsel;
- Guardian; or
- Family member.



*Together, we have the power to prevent abuse.*