



ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Mississippi Department of Human Services



WHAT IS ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES (APS) IN MISSISSIPPI?

- Provides protective services to abused, neglected, or exploited vulnerable adults age 18 and older who reside in private home settings.
- The APS process may range from an initial investigation of maltreatment allegations to supportive services and/or legal intervention.
- APS investigates reports of abuse in the following settings:
 - A private home setting (i.e., in his/her own home or the home of another person).
 - An unlicensed personal care home with three or fewer residents unrelated to the operator.
 - A home setting that does not require a license to operate under the Mississippi State Department of Health guidelines (i.e., boarding home).

WHO IS A VULNERABLE PERSON?

A vulnerable person is defined in the Mississippi Vulnerable Persons Act as a person 18 years of age or older, or any minor whose ability to perform the normal activities of daily living, or to provide for his or her own care, protection from abuse, neglect, exploitation or improper sexual contact, is impaired due to:

- Mental, emotional, physical, or developmental disability or dysfunction
- Brain damage
- The infirmities of aging

The term “vulnerable person” also includes residents or patients, regardless of age, in a care facility.

ABUSE INDICATORS

- **Physical Abuse** - Indicators such as beating, slapping, kicking, rough handling, or other abuse causing welts, cuts, burns, abrasions, sprains, bruises, dislocations, fractures, or broken bones.
- **Neglect by Caregiver/Others** - Indicators such as lack of supervision, failure to give medicine, food or personal care, not attending to bed sores.
- **Self-Neglect** - Indicators such as the inability to provide self-care (i.e. cook, eat, bathe), over-medication/under-medication, untreated medical or mental conditions, aimless wandering, causing fires.
- **Psychological/Emotional Abuse** - Indicators such as verbal threats or insults, cursing, belittling, withholding companionship or isolation.
- **Sexual Abuse** - Indicators such as Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), pregnancy, bruises, bleeding, pain or itching in genital or anal areas, difficulty in walking or sitting.
- **Financial Abuse/Exploitation** - Indicators such as mismanaging money or stealing property, savings, credit cards, unusual activity in bank accounts, misuse of assets by a representative payee.

DIRECT SERVICES

Direct Services are made available for the APS Program to assist vulnerable clients in need of immediate assistance during an APS Worker's investigation or if an individual meets the definition of a vulnerable person and is in need of services to prevent abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

We may also be able to direct you to other services that help with:

- Food assistance
- Utilities
- COVID Testing/vaccines/boosters
- Medications and medical supplies
- Transportation
- Adult Day Care
- Minor Home Repairs

There are two ways to report vulnerable adult abuse:

- Vulnerable Persons Abuse Hotline at 1-844-437-6282
- On-line Reporting at www.mdhs.ms.gov/adults-seniors/



To fill out a report form,
SCAN HERE