

LAKE COUNTY'S SENIORS

Currently, over 22% of Lake County's population is age 60 years and older. This number will only increase over the years as our population ages. By the year 2030, it is anticipated that 'one of three residents will be 60 years and older'.

GUIDING VALUE

Every action taken by Adult Protective Services must balance the duty to protect the safety of the vulnerable adult along with the adult's right to remain independent.

PRINCIPLES OF ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

- *Adults have the right to be independent
- *Adults have the right to be safe
- *Adults retain all of their civil & constitutional rights, unless these rights have been restricted by court action
- *Adults have the right to make decisions about how they choose to live, as long as these decisions do not harm others
- *Adults are presumed to have decision-making capabilities unless a court rules otherwise
- *Adults have the right to refuse or accept services

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

To report incidents of adult abuse, neglect, or exploitation or receive more information about elder maltreatment, please call:

**Lake County Department of
Job and Family Services
177 Main St.
Painesville, Ohio 44077**

**24 Hour Abuse Hotline
(440) 350-4000
Press Option 1
FAX: (440) 350-4010**

Agency Hours: Mon - Fri, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Every call is documented and reviewed to determine a potential course of action. Services will be extended, whenever possible.

All calls are confidential.
Anonymous reports are accepted.

***TAKE A STEP TO HELP PREVENT
ADULT ABUSE
CALL 440 350 4000***

Some Adults Need Protection



**The Lake County
Department
of
Job and Family Services**

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICE LAW

Ohio's Adult Protective Services Law was enacted in 1981 and is outlined in the Ohio Revised Code (ORC 5101.60). This law provides for the reporting and investigation of known or suspected instances of abuse, neglect or exploitation affecting vulnerable adults age 60 years older and residing in the community.

WHO HAS JURISDICTION?

Lake County Department of Job and Family Services is responsible for implementing the Adult Protective Services Law, which includes receiving calls about maltreatment and investigating reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation of vulnerable adults.

ADULT ABUSE, NEGLECT AND EXPLOITATION

Abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults may be intentional or unintentional. Some forms are the result of action or inaction by caretakers, resulting in potential harm to the older adult. Additionally, vulnerable adults neglect themselves by refusing medication, refusing supportive services or by living in an unsafe or unsanitary environment. Caregivers may abuse, neglect or exploit those for whom they provide care.

TYPES OF MALTREATMENT:

ABUSE is 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. Some indicators can include:

- *slapping, hitting, biting
- *unexplained injuries, including bruises, cuts, burns, broken bones
- *confining an adult against their will, locking them in a room, tying him/her to furniture
- *threats of intimidation, caretaker refusing access to the adult

SELF NEGLECT / NEGLECT is the failure of an adult or a caregiver to provide goods or services necessary to avoid physical harm, mental anguish, or mental illness. Some indicators can include:

- *untreated medical condition
- *inadequate supervision
- *unsafe/unsanitary home conditions
- *poor hygiene, dehydration, lack of food

EXPLOITATION is the unlawful or improper act of a person using an adult or their resources for monetary or personal benefit, profit, or gain. Some indicators can include:

- *unexplained charges on an adult's credit card
- *unexplained disappearance of funds
- *abrupt changes in a will or other financial documents
- *forgery of an adult's signature for financial transactions

WHO REPORTS?

The Adult Protective Services Law requires most social service and senior service providers to report known or suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation. The list of required reporters includes:

Physicians
Attorneys
Home Health Staff
Social Workers
Firefighters / EMS personnel
Pharmacists
Employees of Financial Institutions
Certified Public Accountants
Financial Planners
Nurses
Clergy
Psychologists

ANY PERSON with reasonable cause to believe that an adult is suffering abuse, neglect, or exploitation and who makes a report shall be immune from civil or criminal liability, unless the person has acted in bad faith or with malicious purpose.

Abuse and neglect can occur in any setting. Most cases of adult abuse go undetected and unreported. Between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2018, a total of 14,597 reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation were received for adults over 60 throughout Ohio.