

Adult Protective Services



WHAT IS Adult Protective Services (APS)?

APS is a social services program focused on helping elderly adults and adults with disabilities live with dignity and respect by investigating allegations of abuse, neglect, self-neglect and exploitation.

WHO CAN RECEIVE APS services?

In New Jersey, individuals who may be eligible for services must meet all of the following criteria:

- ✓ 18 years of age or older
- ✓ Lacks sufficient understanding or capacity to make, communicate, or carry out decisions concerning oneself due to a physical or mental illness, disability or deficiency
- ✓ Lives in a community setting (a private residence or non-institutional setting)
- ✓ Currently the subject of maltreatment

WHO CANNOT RECEIVE APS services?

Individuals who may not be eligible for services include:

- ✗ Individuals in licensed facilities including hospitals, nursing homes, residential health care facilities, group homes and rooming houses

HOW DO YOU DEFINE Abuse, Neglect, Self-Neglect, and Exploitation?

Below are some common definitions. Please check aps.nj.gov for information specific to your local area.

Abuse



Abuse comes in physical, mental, or sexual forms and can have physical or emotional signs.

Neglect



Neglect is when a primary caregiver fails to provide adequate assistance that the individual depends on—such as food, clothing, shelter, or necessary medical care.

Self-Neglect



Self-Neglect is a non-purposeful act where an individual fails to meet their own essential physical, psychological, or social needs, which threatens the individual's health, safety, and well-being.

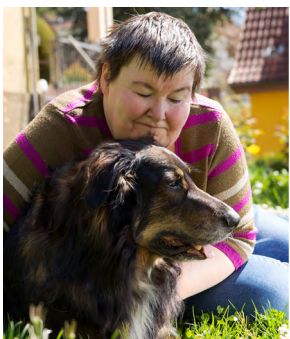
Exploitation



Exploitation is when someone takes advantage of the individual for personal benefit in either financial or legal means.

HOW DO YOU Make a report?

- 1 Contact APS using the information below.
- 2 Make sure to provide the following information, but please note that you can make this report anonymously if you so choose:
 - ✓ The individual's name, address, age/DOB, or other identifying info
 - ✓ The nature and extent of the suspected abuse, neglect, self-neglect or exploitation
 - ✓ Description of the situation, any important identifiers of the alleged abuser, or other dangers in their home environment



WHY **Should you report?**

Most seniors and adults with disabilities live independently without assistance. However, some face abuse or neglect by others and need trained professionals to advocate on their behalf. Others may simply be struggling with routine activities and benefit from in-home support services to maintain their health and independence.

APS helps by assessing each individual's unique needs, then developing a service plan to maintain his/her safety, health and independence.

WHAT HAPPENS **After I make a report?**

APS will investigate the suspected abuse, neglect, self-neglect or exploitation, and connect the individual with support services if the individual wishes to receive them.

We understand that every adult individual has the right to self-determination; APS cannot force anyone to accept help (except in a limited set of circumstances) if they do not wish to receive it. APS does not have jurisdiction in facilities. We also cannot control whether or not law enforcement opens an investigation. Due to strict confidentiality rules, APS may not be able to provide details of an investigation.

WHAT IF **I'm not sure?**

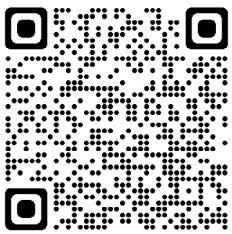
Do you just have a "feeling" about a situation but can't verify the details? APS professionals are trained to help in these situations. Based on your report, the agency will assess the situation and determine how best to respond. Your local APS agency can determine the best course of action in such situations.



Contact APS



✓ Visit aps.nj.gov



← **SCAN HERE for County Contacts**

Scan QR code or visit our website for individual county contact information, hours of operation and after-hours availability.

