

# 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?

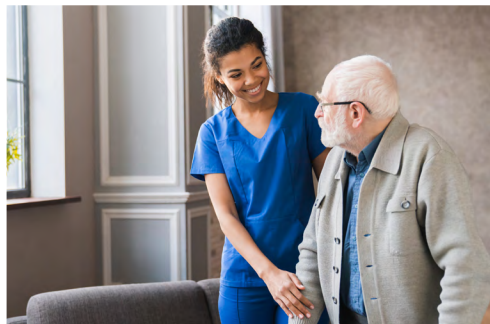
Below are some common definitions. Please check [aps.nj.gov](http://aps.nj.gov) for information specific to your local area.

Abuse 	Neglect 	Self-Neglect 	Exploitation 
<p>Abuse comes in physical, mental, or sexual forms and can have physical or emotional signs.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Self-Neglect is a non-purposeful act of an individual failing to meet their own essential physical, psychological, or social needs, which threatens the individual's health, safety, and well-being.</p>	<p>Exploitation is when someone takes advantage of the individual for personal benefit in either financial or legal means.</p>

## WHO ARE Mandated Reporters?

In most states there are “mandatory reporter” statutes applying to persons providing services to seniors or adults with disabilities. Mandatory reporters in New Jersey are:

- ✓ Health care professionals
- ✓ Law enforcement officers
- ✓ Firefighters
- ✓ Paramedics
- ✓ Emergency medical technicians



WHY ARE **Mandated Reporters required to report?**

Mandated reporters, together with APS, play an important role in helping seniors and adults with disabilities live lives free of abuse and neglect. For that reason, mandated reporters are required to report incidents to APS, and there may be legal repercussions for failing to report suspected incidents of abuse, neglect, self-neglect and exploitation.



HOW DO YOU **report to APS?**

- 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 home environment



WHAT HAPPENS **after reporting?**

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](https://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.

