

Mandatory reporting for individuals working in long-term care facilities.

Professionals who work in long-term care facilities are required to report directly to Adult Protective Services, even if the facility requires that a staff member report to a supervisor. An administrator or supervisor of a person making a report in a long-term care facility may not impede or inhibit the reporting, and a person making a report may not be subject to any sanction for making a report.



How do I make a report?

Report abuse neglect or exploitation to the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Aging and Disability Services, Adult Protective Services at:

Nationwide 24-hour, toll-free
1-800-624-8404
(24/7) Maine Relay 711



The Maine Long-Term Care
OMBUDSMAN
Program

Advocates for Long-Term Care Consumers

61 Winthrop Street
Augusta, Maine 04330

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1-800-499-0229
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Mandatory Reporting in Long-Term Care Facilities

A guide for personnel in nursing homes and assisted housing facilities.



It is estimated that only 1 in 5 cases of elder abuse are reported. It is your responsibility to report.

Speak Up!

Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Aging and Disability Services Adult
Protective Services
1-800-624-8404

Who is a mandatory reporter in the state of Maine?

Maine law (22 MRSA §3477-3479-A) requires that if any of the following individuals suspects that an adult has been abused, neglected or exploited, and there is reasonable cause to suspect that the adult is incapacitated or dependent, then that individual shall immediately report to the Department. **Failure to report may result in a civil or criminal penalty.**

Ambulance Attendant
Certified Nursing Assistant
Chiropractor
Clergy
Dentist
Emergency Medical Technician
Emergency Room Personnel
Humane Agent
Law Enforcement Official
Licensed Practical Nurse
Medical Examiner
Medical Intern
Mental Health Professional
Occupational Therapist
Pharmacist
Physical Therapist
Physician (MD and DO)
Physician's Assistant
Podiatrist
Psychologist
Registered Nurse
Social Worker
Speech Therapist
Unlicensed Assistive Personnel
(i.e. Direct Support Personnel, Personal Support Specialist, Certified Residential Medication Aide)



How is abuse, neglect, and exploitation defined?

Abuse means the infliction of injury, unreasonable confinement, intimidation or cruel punishment that causes or is likely to cause physical harm or pain or mental anguish; sexual abuse or sexual exploitation; or the intentional, knowing or reckless deprivation of essential needs. Abuse includes acts and omissions.(22 MRSA §3472)

Neglect means a threat to an adult's health or welfare by physical or mental injury or impairment, deprivation of essential needs or lack of protection from these.(22 MRSA §3472)

Exploitation means the illegal or improper use of an incapacitated or dependent adult or that adult's resources for another's profit or advantage.(22 MRSA §3472)

What does abuse, neglect, and exploitation look like?

Healthcare professionals should be aware of the indicators of possible abuse, neglect and exploitation that can sometimes be missed. Indicators may include the following:

Indicators of Abuse:

- » Any unexplained injury
- » Pain on touching
- » Cuts, lacerations, puncture wounds
- » Bruises, welt, discoloration
- » Evidence of inadequate or inappropriate use of medication
- » Fear and/or Withdrawal
- » Non-responsiveness
- » A sudden change of behavior or mood

Indicators of Neglect:

- » Untreated medical or mental health problems
- » Bedsores
- » Dehydration and/or malnourishment
- » Inappropriate or inadequate clothing
- » Soiled bedding and/or clothing

Indicators of Exploitation:

- » Unexplained disappearance of funds or valuables
- » Transfer of property or savings
- » Abrupt changes to Power of Attorney, will, or trust
- » Sudden appearance of previously uninvolved relatives