

**A**buse of older adults and people with disabilities can include:

- Physical harm or injury,
- Failure to provide basic care,
- Unwanted sexual contact,
- Financial exploitation,
- Verbal/mental abuse,
- Involuntary seclusion,
- Abandonment by the caregiver,
- Self-neglect that leads to harm.

## Where does abuse occur?

Abuse can occur wherever a person lives, including but not limited to:

- The home of family,
- The home of a friend,
- A nursing facility,
- A residential care facility,
- An assisted living facility,
- An adult foster home,
- A retirement home,
- A room and board home.

## Who should report abuse?

Everyone should report abuse. But Oregon Law requires certain groups of people to report elder abuse.

Mandatory reporters include:

- Health care providers,
- Public officials,
- State and county social service agency employees,
- Law enforcement officials,
- Legal counsel, guardians and family of nursing facility residents.

## To report abuse

Call one of our local offices or your local law enforcement agency to report instances of elder abuse. Our offices can also provide more information about services in your area.

Information about abuse complaints against licensed facilities is available from a local DHS office.

## Confidentiality

DHS accepts anonymous complaints about abuse. Names of complainants and witnesses remain confidential unless there is a court proceeding.

## Protective services

DHS may provide any or all of the following protective services:

- Advocate for an individual's rights,
- Help arrange for alternative care or living arrangements,
- Link a person with medical, legal, financial or other services,
- Counsel individuals, their families, and community providers,
- Refer for criminal prosecution,
- Initiate guardianship or conservatorship when appropriate.

## For more information

Contact your local DHS or Area Agency on Aging office. To find your local office on the Internet go to:

*oregon.gov/DHS/spwpd/*

or call the

Oregon Department of Human Services

500 Summer Street, NE

Salem, Oregon 97301

Telephone: 1-800-232-3020

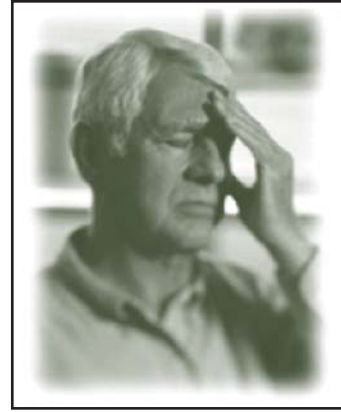
TTY/voice: 503-945-5811

FAX: 503-378-8966

Upon request this publication can be furnished in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities by contacting: Telephone: 1-800-232-3020, TTY/voice: 503-945-5811, FAX: 503-378-8966. Available formats are: large print, Braille, audio tape recording, electronic format and oral presentation.

The information contained in this brochure is current as of publication date and subject to change without notice.

# Adult Protective Services



## Do you...

know of someone or are you being abused? The Oregon Department of Human Services investigates the abuse of, and offers protective services to older adults and people with disabilities.

*Assisting seniors and people with disabilities of all ages to achieve individual well-being through opportunities for community living, family supports, employment and services that promote choice, independence and dignity.*

Oregon Department of Human Services  
Seniors and People with Disabilities Division  
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