

RISK FACTORS

Identifying the signs of a heightened risk of maltreatment can help stop this behavior before it starts. Below are indicators of an increased possibility of abuse and neglect of an individual.

The caregiver or support staff has a history of substance abuse, mental illness, criminal behavior or family violence

They are angry, indifferent, or aggressive toward the vulnerable adult

They are overworked with little additional support

The adult has a tendency toward verbal or physical aggression

The adult and the caregiver or support staff are often alone together, isolated from additional support

“
I JUST
WANT TO
BE TREATED
WITH RESPECT.”

”
LINDA
Living with
dissociative disorder



This material is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by contacting the Minnesota Office of Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, write to ombudsman.mhdd@state.mn.us, call toll-free 1-800-657-3506 or voice at 651-757-1800, or use the Minnesota Relay service, at 7-1-1.

m MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF OMBUDSMAN
FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

m DEPARTMENT OF
ADMINISTRATION
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

The Office of the Ombudsman and the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities initiated this public awareness campaign designed to educate people with disabilities and their families and guardians, and the general public on how to identify, report and prevent abuse of people with disabilities. The campaign highlights the value and dignity of each person living with a disability. Materials were co-created with people with disabilities, their family members, advocates and professionals in policy and care provision. We thank them all for their generosity of time spent to make this campaign a reality.

Sources used in this brochure:

www.helpguide.org/articles/abuse/elder-abuse-and-neglect.htm
www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/home-and-community-services/types-and-signs-abuse
www.eli-net.eu/fileadmin/ELINET/Redaktion/user_upload/The_key_features_of_successful_awareness_raising_campaigns_10-15_LM_ELINET.pdf



ABUSE STOPS WITH US.

[Treat People Like People.org](http://TreatPeopleLikePeople.org)

MALTREATMENT OF VULNERABLE ADULTS

RISK FACTORS AND WARNING SIGNS

WARNING SIGNS

If maltreatment is occurring, there will often be warning signs to indicate such. Different forms of abuse and neglect can manifest in various ways. Generally, the type of maltreatment can be identified through the warning signs exhibited. If you observe any of the signs below occurring with a vulnerable adult, consider alerting Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center (MAARC).

BEHAVIORAL INDICATORS

Recent changes in thinking; seems confused or disoriented

Appears hesitant to talk openly

Becomes unusually aggressive or angry, or conversely withdrawn or quiet

Recent increase of not wanting to be left alone

Changes in character including depression, helplessness and tearful

SEXUAL ABUSE

Bruising around the breasts and/or genitals

Unexplained sexually transmitted infections

Vaginal or anal bleeding

Torn, stained or bloody undergarments and clothing

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Unexplained injuries including bruises, scars, welts, broken bones, sprains or dislocations

Explanation for an injury is inconsistent with its possible cause

Broken eyeglasses or frames

Signs of restraint including marks on wrists

Refusal by caregiver or support staff to allow others to be alone with the vulnerable adult

Abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults is a real problem with a real solution.

It does not have to be this way.

Abuse stops with us.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Threatening, belittling or controlling behavior exhibited by caregiver or support staff

Unusual behavior such as rocking, sucking thumb, etc.

Becoming unresponsive, noncommunicative and withdrawn

Increased nervousness and agitation, particularly around certain people

FINANCIAL ABUSE

Personal belongings, papers or credit cards are missing

Another person's name added to the client's bank account or important documents, or frequent checks made out to cash

Unexplained sudden transfer of funds or assets

Unauthorized withdrawal of funds

Unpaid bills regardless of funds available

Abrupt changes in the will or financial documents of the adult

NEGLECT

Lack of necessities, such as food, water, utilities, medications and medical care

Unusual weight loss, malnutrition and dehydration

Unsanitary living conditions

Either a surplus of or missing prescription medications

Abnormally unkempt, untidy or unbathed

Untreated health conditions

TO REPORT AN INCIDENT OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT

Call the Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center (MAARC) at:

844-880-1574

Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.