

## What is ANE?

**Abuse:** the willful infliction of physical pain, physical injury, mental anguish, unreasonable confinement, or the willful deprivation of essential services to a disabled adult or elder person.

**Neglect:** the absence or omission of essential services to the degree that it harms or is a threat to harm the physical or emotional health of a disabled adult or elder person.

**Exploitation:** the illegal or improper use of a disabled adult or elder person or that person's resources through undue influence, coercion, harassment, duress, deception, false representation, false pretense, or other similar means for another's profit or advantage.

## Who is Required to Report?

Anyone can make a report to APS. However, there are certain professionals and entities that must report suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation:

- Law enforcement
- Banks and financial services institutions
- Any medical personnel or employee of a facility providing professional medical / health-related services
- Medical examiners and coroners
- Pharmacists
- Physical or occupational therapists
- Discharge planners
- Clergy
- Licensed professional counselors
- Social work personnel
- Daycare personnel
- Anyone required to report child abuse

## Want to Learn More?

For tailored educational experiences, APS can come to your organization to speak to your group. For information, please contact 404-232-1566.

## Confidentiality

State and federal confidentiality laws regarding health care information are described in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). Information received during APS investigations is available only to law enforcement and other authorized investigative entities.

## How to Reach APS

To report at-risk adult abuse, call **866-552-4464**.

To make a report online, go to **aging.ga.gov** and click "Report Elder Abuse."

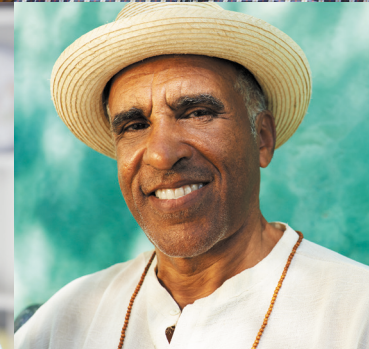


**Georgia Department  
of Human Services**  
Division of Aging Services



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## ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES



# Adult Protective Services

866-552-4464 | [aging.ga.gov](http://aging.ga.gov)

## What is Adult Protective Services?

Adult Protective Services (APS) protects adults with disabilities (18 and older) and older adults (65 and older) who are not residents of long-term care facilities and who:

- are unable to protect their own interests;
- are harmed or threatened with harm through action or inaction by another; or
- are at risk due to lack of knowledge or required resources, or poor health, or physical or mental impairment.

## What does Adult Protective Services do?

The role of APS is to investigate reports, deter ongoing maltreatment of elder adults and adults with disabilities, and minimize the risk of maltreatment from occurring in the future.

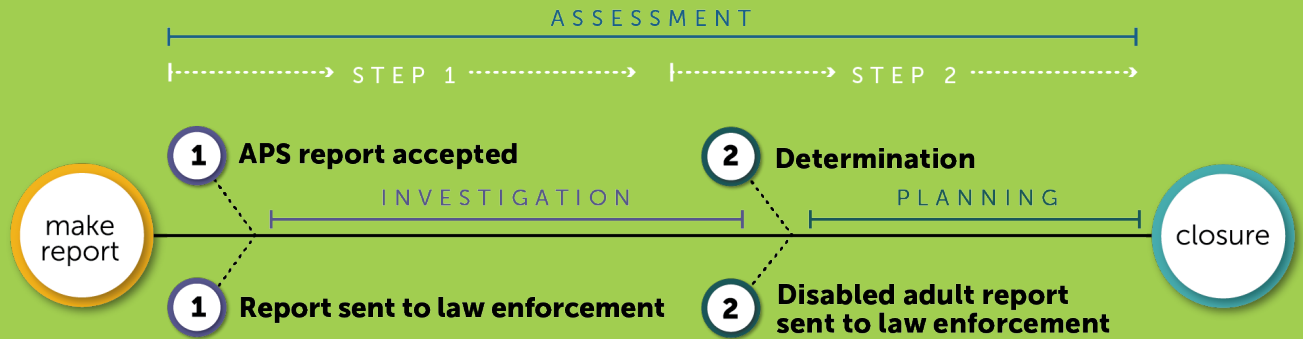
As an investigative entity, APS cannot act as a placement resource, but it can and will act as an advocate and strive for the least restrictive measures to ensure adults' safety and independence.

Things APS may not do:

- Become involved if no abuse, neglect, or exploitation is alleged.
- Make medical or financial decisions.
- Serve as Representative Payee.

## What Happens When I Report?

When a report meets criteria for APS involvement, APS will simultaneously conduct an investigation and assessment to determine whether abuse, neglect, and exploitation (ANE) has occurred and identify the client's needs. If a decision is made that ANE has occurred at the hands of someone other than the client, a report will be sent to law enforcement. APS will continue to assess for the need for interventions and work with the client to identify appropriate interventions.



## Rights of Adults

All adults have the right to decide what is in their best interest. These rights include:

- Refusing medical treatment
- Living a lifestyle they choose without interference
- Refusing social services

All adults are presumed to have the capacity to make or communicate significant responsible decisions concerning their health and safety, and the ability to manage their money and property. Due process through the judicial system is the only means of determining whether an adult is incapacitated.