

WHAT IS

ADULT ABUSE?

Virginia law mandates providing protective services to adults. Adult Protective Services (APS) receives reports on adults ages 60 and older as well as incapacitated individuals age 18-59. APS investigates reports of adult abuse, neglect or exploitation and can arrange a wide variety of health, housing, social, and legal services to stop the abuse and prevent further mistreatment.

TYPES OF ADULT ABUSE

There are a wide variety of abusive behaviors including:

- **PHYSICAL ABUSE** — the intentional infliction of physical pain or injury.
- **MENTAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE** — the intentional infliction of mental anguish by verbal assault, threat, intimidation, humiliation, or other means.
- **SEXUAL ABUSE** — unwanted sexual activity.
- **NEGLECT** — the lack of necessary assistance to keep physically and mentally healthy.
- **SELF-NEGLECT** — the failure to provide one's self with the necessities of life, such as food, clothing, shelter, needed medical care, and reasonable financial management.
- **FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION** — the illegal use of an adult's resources or property for another individual's profit or advantage.

REPORTING ADULT ABUSE, NEGLECT OR EXPLOITATION

- To report suspected adult abuse, neglect or exploitation, contact your local department of social services or the 24-hour toll-free hot line at **1-888-832-3858**.
- If possible, provide the name, address and any other information about the adult whom you suspect is being abused, neglected or exploited.
- Reports may be made anonymously.

