

Prioritization guidelines for Adult Protection Services case assignments

These guidelines outline Hennepin County prioritization of Adult Maltreatment case assignments mandated by:

- Minnesota Statute 626.557 Subd. 9b. Response to reports; and
- Minnesota Statute 626.557, Subd. 10b. Investigations; guidelines

Case assignments

Reports may be assigned for investigation and/or adult protective services when the following criteria have been met:

- Subject of the report is likely to meet the legal definition of a vulnerable adult. (626.5572, Subd.21)
- Reported incident(s) meets the legal definitions of maltreatment. ([626.5572](#), Subd. 2; Subd. 4; Subd. 9; Subd.17; and 609.23).
- The vulnerable adult has been adversely impacted by the alleged maltreatment.

Priorities for case assignments

Hennepin County will prioritize Adult Protection case assignment in the following circumstances:

- The adult vulnerable to maltreatment has no support person willing or able to assist them to remedy the maltreatment.
- The adult vulnerable to maltreatment declines a support person's intervention.
- A person alleged responsible for the maltreatment continues to have access to the adult vulnerable to maltreatment.
- The adult vulnerable to maltreatment appears to lack the mental capacity and/or physical ability to remedy the maltreatment on their own.

- The adult vulnerable to maltreatment has been issued an eviction from a facility, and there are insufficient protective arrangements in place to meet ongoing needs.
- The adult vulnerable to maltreatment has been discharged or terminated from current services and there are insufficient protective arrangements in place to meet ongoing needs.
- The ongoing maltreatment is unresolved, even if there have been past investigations.
- There is a pattern of repeat reports: the same adult vulnerable to maltreatment with the same person alleged to be responsible for the maltreatment.
- The adult vulnerable to maltreatment is unable to defend themselves from maltreatment from others due to physical disability, frailty, emotional dysfunction, or cognitive impairment.

Maltreatment reports that will not be assigned in Adult Protection

Hennepin County Adult Protection does not investigate nor assign:

- Reports where the maltreatment has been stopped, risk of maltreatment reoccurrence is reduced and the adult's needs, health and safety are met through services and supports.
- Reports of self-neglect when the adult's health and safety can be addressed through case management or other services.
- Reports where the adult vulnerable to maltreatment is deceased at the time the report is received.
- Reports where a duplicate report already was investigated and closed.
- Reports where Adult Protection is unable to locate the adult.
- Reports in correctional facilities, including the Hennepin County jail where APS is unable to engage in assessment.
- Reports of sexual abuse, emotional abuse, or caregiver neglect alleged against staff in public and charter schools when such allegations are under the investigative jurisdiction of the Minnesota Department of Education.
- Reports requesting guardianship for initiating Do-Not-Resuscitate/Do Not Intubate (DNR/DNI) orders.
- Reports requesting guardianship as a follow-up to commitment where the adult vulnerable to maltreatment is not maltreated.
- Reports for the purpose of recovering unpaid debts where the adult vulnerable to maltreatment is not maltreated.
- Reports where the adult who is vulnerable no longer resides in Minnesota.
- Reports where the alleged maltreatment will not be addressed by Adult Protection based on informed choice of the adult.
- Reports where there is no role for Adult Protection services.

Contact

To make a vulnerable adult report:

Call 1-844-880-1574 to reach the Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center

For general questions:

Adult Protection Services

612-543-9912

adultprotection@hennepin.us