

I am not sure if something really happened, or if it is abuse...

Do I have to report it?

You may be reluctant to report suspected abuse because you are unsure or afraid you are wrong.

It is not your job to decide if abuse happened. When you report, the investigation will determine if abuse or neglect happened.

In Nebraska, everyone is a Mandatory Reporter for CHILD abuse and neglect! There are also many Mandatory Reporters for ADULT abuse and neglect.

Anyone can report when they suspect or know about any kind of abuse. **It is better to err on the side of safety.** Call (800) 652-1999.

What about when a person lives in a licensed place, like assisted living or a group home?

Should I report it?

Where a person lives should not factor in to whether you report when you suspect abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

Some settings have oversight that may lead to additional or separate investigation. **You should never assume someone else will report.** Call (800) 652-1999.

If you are not sure where to report, call the hotline at:



(800) 652-1999

Or scan QR code to report online:



To learn about what happens after a call is made, visit the following webpages:

When the call is about a Child:

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Child-Abuse.aspx>

When the call is about a Vulnerable Adult:

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Adult-Protective-Services.aspx>

Learn more with
WE CARE and
Mandatory Reporter
Trainings



Reporting Suspected Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation (ANE)



NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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What is Abuse?

Learn Nebraska's Definitions

Abuse or Neglect of a Child

A child is a person age 18 years or younger, as 19 is Nebraska's age of majority.

It is **abuse or neglect** of a child when another person allows or causes certain things to happen. This includes:

- A child is in a situation that threatens their life, body, or mental health.
- A child is cruelly confined or cruelly punished.
- A child does not have necessary food, clothing, shelter, or care.
- A child six years or younger is left alone in a vehicle.
- A child is sexually abused or exploited. Sexual exploitation includes activities like prostitution, immoral conduct, public indecency, or participating in the creation of pornographic material.

See Neb. Rev. Stat. 28-710.

Vulnerable Adult

An adult is a person age 18 years or older, for the purposes of Adult Protective Services.

An adult is considered vulnerable when they have a guardian or conservator appointed by a court, or they have a substantial mental or functional impairment.

A substantial mental or functional impairment means the person has a hard time living independently or caring for themselves.

The person's judgement and behavior may be affected by how they think, feel, and remember. They may have a hard time understanding or completing tasks to live on their own.

See Neb. Rev. Stat. 28-371.

Adults receiving home and community-based waiver services may be considered vulnerable.

Abuse of a Vulnerable Adult

A vulnerable adult may be **abused** when another person does something that causes physical injury, unreasonable confinement, cruel punishment, sexual abuse, or sexual exploitation.

See Neb. Rev. Stat. 28-371.

Neglect of a Vulnerable Adult

A vulnerable adult may be **neglected** when a caregiver does not provide essential services. Self-neglect is when a vulnerable adult is unable to provide self-care or obtain services.

Neglect happens when there is imminent danger, physical injury, or death.

See Neb. Rev. Stat. 25-361.01.

Exploitation of a Vulnerable Adult

A vulnerable or senior adult may be **exploited** when another person takes something of theirs or keeps something of theirs from them. This includes using or controlling the person's money, property, or other items.

An adult can be exploited in many unlawful ways. This includes when someone uses undue influence, deceives, extorts, intimidates, forces, threatens, isolates the person, or breaches a fiduciary relationship.

People with fiduciary duty include guardians, conservators, powers of attorney, and trustees.

See Neb. Rev. Stat. 28-358.



Working Together to Keep People Safe

The Nebraska DHHS Mission is "helping people live better lives." This includes providing safety to abused or neglected children and vulnerable adults.



The Division of Disability and Aging (DDA) oversees the home and community-based Medicaid waiver programs. These programs provide services to children and vulnerable adults.

Since waiver providers are Mandatory Reporters, DDA offers training on Child and Vulnerable Adult, Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation. Anyone can view this training.



Children and Family Services (CFS) conduct investigations into allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

CFS has WE CARE training on Mandatory Reporters, available on DHHS YouTube, as well as a longer class.

CFS responds to reports that come in on the hotline at (800) 652-1999.



Public Health (PH) oversees licensed facilities and certified providers. PH may investigate when suspected abuse or neglect occurs in these settings.