

MANDATED REPORTER

As an In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) provider, you are a “Mandated Reporter.” Being a mandated reporter means that **by law** you must report any suspected abuse immediately to the County Adult Protective Services (APS) or Children’s Protective Services (CPS). The abuse might be of the consumer you serve, someone else in the consumer’s home, or anyone else, whether you are working or not.

Adult Abuse

Adult abuse happens when an elder or dependent adult:

- is slapped, hit, choked, pinched, kicked, shoved, or given too much or too little medication
- is constantly yelled at, threatened with physical harm or threatened to be left alone
- is deserted by a caregiver when he/she cannot get necessary food, water, clothing, shelter or health care
- is kept from getting mail, telephone calls or visitors or prevented from going outside or to public places
- loses money, property or items of value by force or without their knowledge or approval
- is neglected by someone who should be providing care, food, water, paying the rent or utilities or other bills
- is taken from this state when the person is not capable of giving their consent
- is raped or molested

Self neglect of an elder or dependent adult is also abuse. An elder is anyone aged 65 or older. Dependent adult is anyone between the ages of 18 and 64 who has physical or mental limitations that keep them from carrying out normal daily activities or protecting their own rights.

Child Abuse

Child abuse happens when a child:

- has a physical injury by other than accidental means
- is subjected to willful cruelty or unjustifiable punishment
- is abused or exploited sexually
- is neglected by a parent or caretaker who fails to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care or supervision

If you see or suspect abuse, you should report it as soon as possible. The county is responsible to investigate – that is not your job. Your report is confidential – neither the abused person nor the abuser will be told who made the report. You can report abuse any time, any day. The phone line is answered 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.