

Contact Information

To report abuse, neglect, or exploitation of an elder or an adult with disabilities, please contact one of the following: DSS local ASA staff (South Dakota's protective services agency), law enforcement or the local state's attorney office.

Reporting in Tribal Communities

Tribal communities may have different definitions of abuse, neglect, exploitation and different reporting requirements. Please check with the appropriate authority in your area.

Aberdeen: 3401 10th Ave. SE, 57401-8000
605-626-3160 or 1-866-239-8855

Belle Fourche: 609 5th Ave., 57717-1405
605-892-2731 or 1-877-390-0093

Brookings: 1310 Main Ave. S., Ste 101, 57006-3893
605-688-4330 or 1-866-267-5228

Chamberlain: 320 Sorenson Drive, 57325-1022
605-734-4500 or 1-888-749-0007

Custer: 1164 Mt. Rushmore Road, #3, 57730-2133
605-673-4347 or 1-877-763-0006

Deadwood: 20 Cliff Street, PO Box 607, 57732-0607
605-578-2402 or 1-877-268-0007

Hot Springs: 2500 Minnekahta Ave., Bldg 1, PO Box 729, 57747-0729 / 605-745-5100 or 1-888-747-0039

Huron: 110 3rd Street SW, Suite 200, 57350-2450
605-353-7100 or 1-877-329-0019

Lake Andes: 3rd and Lake, PO Box 190, 57356-0190
605-487-7607 or 1-877-656-0023

Madison: 223 S. Van Eps Ave., Ste 201, 57042-2855
605-256-5683 or 1-877-412-0022

Mission: 671 N. Marge Lane, PO Box 818, 57555-0818 / 605-856-4431 or 1-888-280-0021

Mitchell: 116 E. 11th Ave., 57301-1432
605-995-8000 or 1-800-231-8346

Mobridge: 920 6th St. W., PO Box 160, 57601-0160
605-845-2922 or 1-877-431-3978

Olivet: 140 Euclid, Room 127, 57052-2103
605-387-4219 or 1-877-454-0074

Pierre: 912 East Sioux, 57501-3490
605-773-3612 or 1-800-226-1033

Rapid City: 510 N. Cambell, PO Box 2440, 57709-2440 / 605-394-2525 or 1-800-644-2914

Redfield: 210 East 7th Ave., 57469-1299
605-472-2230 or 1-877-372-0010

Sioux Falls: 811 E. 10th St., Dept. 4, 57103-1650
605-367-5444 or 1-866-801-5421

Sisseton: 119 E. Cherry St., PO Box 230, 57262-0230 / 605-698-7673 or 1-888-747-0017

Sturgis: 2200 W. Main Street, 57785-1338
605-347-2588 or 1-888-476-0036

Vermillion: 114 Market St., Suite 102, 57069-3040
605-677-6800 or 1-800-730-0153

Watertown: 2001 9th Ave. SW, Ste 300, 57201-4029 / 605-882-5000 or 1-866-239-6787

Winner: 649 W. 2nd St., PO Box 31, 57580-0031
605-842-0400 or 1-866-913-0031

Yankton: 3113 Spruce St., Suite 200, 57078-5320
605-668-3030 or 1-800-455-5241

Department of Social Services Division of Adult Services & Aging



Strong Families - South Dakota's Foundation and Our Future

Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation of Elders or Adults with Disabilities



South Dakota law requires individuals in the medical and mental health professions and employees or entities that have ongoing contact with and exposure to elders and adults with disabilities, to report knowledge or reasonable suspicion of abuse or neglect of elders and adults with disabilities.

Mandatory Reporters

There are two groups of mandatory reporters and the process for reporting is different for each group.

The first group of mandatory reporters includes:

- ✓ Physician, dentist, doctor of osteopathy, chiropractor, optometrist, podiatrist, religious healing practitioner, hospital intern or resident, nurse, paramedic, emergency medical technician, social worker, or any health care professional;
- ✓ Long-term care ombudsman;
- ✓ Psychologist, licensed mental health professional, or counselor engaged in professional counseling; or
- ✓ State, county, or municipal criminal justice employee or law enforcement officer.

These individuals must make an oral or written report within twenty-four hours to DSS, law enforcement, or the state's attorney.

The second group of mandatory reporters includes:

- ✓ Any staff member of a nursing facility, assisted living facility, adult day care center, or community support provider, or any residential care giver, individual providing homemaker services, victim advocate, or hospital personnel engaged in the admission, examination, care, or treatment of elders or disabled adults.

Any individual in this group must report to the person in charge of the institution where the elderly or disabled adult resides or is present, or the person in charge of providing the services within twenty-four hours.

The person in charge must also make an oral or written report within twenty-four hours to DSS, law enforcement, or the state's attorney.

Abuse

Abuse is defined as physical harm, bodily injury, or attempt to cause physical harm or injury, or the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm or bodily injury on an elder or a disabled adult.

Neglect

Neglect is defined as harm to an elder's or a disabled adult's health or welfare, without reasonable medical justification, caused by the conduct of a person responsible for the elder's or disabled adult's health or welfare, within the means available for the elder or disabled adult, including the failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, or medical care.

Exploitation

Exploitation is defined as the wrongful taking or exercising of control over property of an elder or a disabled adult with intent to defraud the elder or disabled adult.

Signs

Below are signs of possible abuse, neglect or exploitation:

- ✓ Signs of physical injury such as bruises, welts, burns, lacerations, scars, broken bones or serious internal injuries.
- ✓ Lack of necessities such as heat, food, water, medical care and/or unsafe conditions in the home.
- ✓ Multiple injuries, repeated or untreated injuries, or injuries not compatible with history.
- ✓ Behavioral signs such as agitation, anxiety, resignation, hesitation to reply, anger, depression, or fear.
- ✓ Inappropriate and/or inadequate clothing for the weather conditions.
- ✓ Social isolation or inappropriately leaving an older person alone for long periods of time.

- ✓ Caregiver shows aggressive behavior such as threats, insults, or other verbal harassment towards the care receiver.

- ✓ Misuse of money or property for another person's monetary or personal gain.

- ✓ Unauthorized sale of real or personal property.

Report

To report abuse, neglect, or exploitation of an elder or an adult with disabilities, please contact your local law enforcement agency, local state's attorney's office or the nearest Department of Social Services' office listed on the back of this brochure.

In addition to mandatory reporting, people can make reports on a voluntary basis. Any person who knows or has reason to suspect that an elder or adult who is disabled has been abused or neglected may report that information. Persons who in good faith make a report of abuse or neglect of an elderly or disabled adult are immune from liability.

Facilities or programs that are licensed or regulated by the Department of Health or Department of Human Services will follow department procedures in place for reporting.

A mandatory reporter who knowingly fails to make the required report is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

Report the following if you know or have reason to believe someone needs protection from abuse, neglect, or exploitation:

- ✓ Name, age and address of the adult who is in danger.
- ✓ Names and addresses of guardian or relatives, if known.
- ✓ Names of other people involved, if any.
- ✓ Description of the situation causing the danger.