



MANDATORY REPORTING POLICY

Mandatory Reporters of Vulnerable Adults

As an employee of a social services organization, under RCW 74.34.020, you are considered a “mandatory reporter”. This means that if you witness or suspect abuse or exploitation of a vulnerable adult, you are required to make a report to DSHS. If you suspect sexual or physical assault, you must also make a report to law enforcement, in addition to DSHS.

“Vulnerable adult” includes a person:

- (a) Sixty years of age or older who has the functional, mental, or physical inability to care for himself or herself, or
- (b) Found incapacitated under Chapter 11.88 RCW; or
- (c) Who has a developmental disability as defined under RCW 71A.10.020; or
- (d) Admitted to any facility; or
- (e) Receiving services from home health, hospice, or home care agencies licensed or required to be licensed under chapter 70.127RCW; or
- (f) Receiving services from an individual provider; or
- (g) Who self-directs his or her own care and receives services from a personal aide under chapter 74.39 RCW

As soon as you have reason to believe that abuse, neglect or exploitation may have occurred, you must call Adult Protective Services at 1-800-459-0421. You do not need to have proof in order to make a report of suspected abuse. However, if you fail to report suspected abuse, you may be guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

Agency volunteers are considered “Passive” reporters. Passive reporters are encouraged to report, but are not required to report, and are not held liable for not reporting.