

Mandatory Reporting

Abuse and Neglect of a Vulnerable Adult



Who Must Report - Mandated Reporters

North Dakota law requires certain types of professionals who provide healthcare or services to a vulnerable adult to report abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults. (See 2013 ND SB 2323)

- clergy (*NOTE: not required if knowledge is gained as a spiritual advisor*)
- addiction counselor
- caregiver
- chiropractor
- congregate care personnel
- coroner
- counselor
- dental hygienist
- dentist
- emergency medical personnel
- family therapist
- firefighter
- hospital personnel
- law enforcement officer
- marriage therapist
- medical examiner
- mental health professional
- nurse
- nursing home personnel
- occupational therapist
- optometrist
- other professional
- pharmacist
- physical therapist
- physician
- podiatrist
- social worker

Others Who May Report

- Any other person may voluntarily report to the North Dakota Department of Human Services or to law enforcement.

When to Report

- A mandated reporter **must report** if in an official or professional capacity, he or she:
 - has knowledge that a vulnerable adult has been subjected to abuse or neglect; or
 - observes a vulnerable adult being subjected to conditions or circumstances that reasonably would result in abuse or neglect.
- **IMPORTANT:** A mandated reporter **is required to report as soon as possible.**

What to Include in the Report *(To the extent reasonably possible)*

- Name, age, and address of the alleged vulnerable adult.
- Name and address of the caregiver (if any).
- Nature and extent of the alleged abuse or neglect or the conditions and circumstances that would reasonably be expected to result in abuse or neglect.
- Any evidence of previous abuse or neglect.
- Any other information that, in the reporter's opinion, may be helpful in establishing the cause of the alleged abuse or neglect and the identity of the person responsible for the alleged abuse or neglect.
- **NOTE:** Any person required to report who willfully fails to do so may be guilty of an infraction and subject to a fine up to \$1,000.

How to Report

- **URGENT:** If a vulnerable adult is in immediate danger, call law enforcement now and afterwards report concerns to Vulnerable Adult Protective Services by:
 - Filing a report **online** at: <https://fw2.harmonyis.net/NDLiveIntake/>.
 - Contacting Vulnerable Adult Protective Services Central Intake Line at **1-855-462-5465 Option 2**. Messages can be left after hours.
 - Complete and submit the reporting form: <http://www.nd.gov/eforms/doc/sfn01607.pdf>
 - Email to carechoice@nd.gov
 - Fax to 701-328-8744

Online Training for Mandatory Reporters

- Mandatory reporters may receive one CEU for completion of the online training found here: www.cnd.nd.gov/STLPCatalog/325/PUBLICCOURSESPOSTEDONWEBSITES/MandatedRepVAPSI/story.html

Additional Resources

- For more information, visit www.nd.gov/dhs/services/adultsaging/.