

MANDATORY REPORTING

Abuse and Neglect of a Vulnerable Adult

Who Must Report: Mandated Reporters in North Dakota

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 [2017 North Dakota Senate Bill \(SB\) 2322](#) and [2013 ND SB 2323](#) for details.

- Qualified individual (*means any agent, investment adviser representative, or person who serves in a supervisory, compliance or legal capacity for a broker-dealer or investment advisor*)
- 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.

FAILURE TO REPORT: *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.*

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How to Report Suspected Abuse, Neglect, or Financial Exploitation:

- **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://bit.ly/3vbYbEj>, or
 - Completing and submitting the reporting form www.nd.gov/eforms/doc/sfn01607.pdf
 - Via email to dhsvaps@nd.gov or fax to 701.328.8744
 - Contacting the Vulnerable Adult Protective Services Central **Intake Line** toll-free at **1.855.462.5465, Option 2**. Messages can be left after hours.

Online Training for Mandatory Reporters

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

Additional Resources

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