

Adult Protective Services Facts and Figures

Adult Protective Services (APS) investigates allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of the elderly or adults with disabilities. When maltreatment is confirmed, APS provides or arranges services in an attempt to alleviate the problem. APS is dedicated to ensuring the health and safety of vulnerable adults in Texas.

Many people who are elderly or have disabilities live alone or are dependent on others for their care. Isolation is a factor that places vulnerable adults at risk for abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Make it your mission to remember the elderly and adults with disabilities in your community.

As the public becomes more aware of vulnerable adults and their needs, APS will continue to see an increase in the number of reports. More than half of all cases reported to APS involve neglect. Most involve self-neglect. Through illness or diminished mental capacity, vulnerable adults may no longer be able to provide adequately for their own health and safety. They may live in unsanitary conditions, without heat or running water, or may need assistance with meals and other daily activities. They may also require medical care.

Ways You Can Help

- Form a Home Improvement Alliance within your organization or congregation to repair homes of the elderly and disabled adults. Services could include yard work; minor electrical, plumbing and carpentry repairs; building ramps; house painting and roof repair.
- Assist elders with pet care - taking pets to the vet, exercising dogs, helping with grooming and medications, etc.
- Deliver Meals on Wheels.
- Provide transportation.
- Call your local Area Agency on Aging to inquire about specific volunteer needs, which could include money management, guardianship, and Office of Consumer Affairs volunteer opportunities.
- Organize a "Caregivers" group through your church.
- Relieve a caregiver by sitting with their ill loved one; this helps the elder as well as the caregiver who may desperately need a break.
- Get to know your elderly neighbor, become personally involved and include them in your family activities.
- Join groups such as Gray Panthers or American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).
- Collect holiday and birthday gifts for the elderly and disabled adults in your community.
- Recruit organizations and businesses to donate their resources to help the elderly and disabled who are in need of assistance.
- Develop local Adult Protective Services Multi-Disciplinary Teams or participate in an existing project in your community that supports older and disabled adults.
- Donate blankets, non-perishable food items, pet food, and household items to your local APS Resource Room
- Help create a Resource Room or food pantry if one is not available in your area.
- Call your local DFPS office and request information on the programs that benefit vulnerable adults in your area. Ask to speak with a Community Initiatives Specialist to find out how you can help.