



866-236-1430

DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE

Abuse is a serious issue affecting adults in long-term care facilities. Dependent adult abuse is one type of abuse recognized under Iowa law. Laws have been put in place to help protect individuals and outline agencies that can provide assistance and support. It is a resident's right to be free from abuse and neglect.

WHO IS CONSIDERED A DEPENDENT ADULT?

Iowa Code 235B defines a dependent adult as a person eighteen years of age or older who is unable to protect the person's own interests or unable to adequately perform or obtain services necessary to meet essential human needs, as a result of a physical or mental condition which requires assistance from another.

Iowa Code 235E defines a dependent adult as a person eighteen years of age or older whose ability to perform the normal activities of daily living or to provide for the person's own care or protection is impaired, either temporarily or permanently.

WHAT IS DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE?

- **Physical Abuse**
 - With injury
 - Assault (no injury necessary)
 - Unreasonable confinement or punishment
- **Exploitation**
 - Financial or physical resources
- **Various sexual abuse offenses**
 - As defined under chapter 709 or section 726.2 of Iowa Code
- **Personal Degradation**
- **Denial of Critical Care**
 - Failure to provide adequate food
 - Failure to provide adequate shelter
 - Failure to provide adequate clothing
 - Failure to provide adequate medical care
 - Failure to provide adequate necessary mental health care
 - Failure to provide emotional needs necessary for normal functioning
 - Failure to provide proper supervision
 - Failure to provide adequate physical care

To be considered dependent adult abuse, 3 criteria must be met: there must be a dependent adult, a caretaker, and abuse as defined by law.

HOW DO I REPORT DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE?

To report dependent adult abuse caused by a staff member in a long-term care facility, contact the **Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals and Licensing at 877-686-0027.**

To report dependent adult abuse caused by a family member or someone in the community, contact the **Iowa Department of Health and Human Services Abuse Hotline at 800-362-2178.**