

Dependent Adult Abuse Notice of Intake Decision

You made a report of suspected dependent adult abuse to the _____ county office on _____, regarding _____.

- The report of suspected dependent adult abuse you made has been accepted for evaluation or assessment. The report must be completed within 20 working days from the date of referral, unless an extension is granted for just cause.
- The report of suspected dependent adult abuse you made will **not** be evaluated by Department of Human Services protective service staff because:
 - A reasonable belief does not exist that the adult subject is a dependent adult.
 - The person alleged responsible for the abuse is not a caretaker of the dependent adult.
 - A reasonable belief does not exist to suspect abuse or neglect as defined by Iowa Code 235B occurred.
 - The reported allegation was previously accepted and an assessment/evaluation was completed.
 - The allegation does not fall within the jurisdiction of either Iowa or the Iowa Department of Human Services.

As a result of your report, we have forwarded information to:

- The county attorney's office
- Law enforcement
- The Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals
- DHS Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Regulatory Authority
- The information has been referred to the local office for addendum: _____.
- Referred reporter to contact available community service support

Thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention.

Sincerely,

Protective Services Supervisor

Date

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The purpose of the dependent adult abuse program is to provide the greatest possible protection to victims or potential victims of abuse through encouraging the increased reporting of suspected cases of dependent adult abuse and ensuring the thorough and prompt evaluation or assessment of these reports.

Making a report of dependent adult abuse may be a stressful event, since you may not fully know what action may come as a result of your report. The following are frequently asked questions:

What is dependent adult abuse?

Iowa law identifies dependent adult abuse as any of the following, if it is the result of acts or omissions of the dependent adult's caretaker:

- ◆ **Physical abuse:** Physical injury to, or injury which is at variance with the history given of the injury, or unreasonable confinement, unreasonable punishment, or assault of a dependent adult.
- ◆ **Sexual abuse:** Commission of a sexual offense under the sexual abuse criminal chapters of the Code.
- ◆ **Financial exploitation:** Taking unfair advantage of a dependent adult's physical or financial resources for one's own personal or pecuniary profit, without the dependent adult's informed consent, including theft, by the use of undue influence, harassment, duress, deception, false representation, or false pretenses.
- ◆ **Denial of critical care:** Failing to provide adequate food, shelter, clothing, supervision, physical or mental health care or other care necessary to maintain a dependent adult's life or health.
- ◆ **Self denial of critical care:** The dependent adult fails to provide him or herself adequate food, shelter, clothing, supervision, physical or mental health care or other care necessary to maintain a dependent adult's life or health.
- ◆ **Personal Degradation:** A willful act or statement by a caretaker intended to shame, degrade, humiliate, or otherwise harm the personal dignity of a dependent adult, or where the caretaker knew or reasonably should have known the act or statement would cause shame, degradation, humiliation, or harm to the personal dignity of a reasonable person.

Is the dependent adult told who made the report?

No. Iowa law does not permit the protective services worker or the Department to disclose who made the dependent adult abuse report. However, a court may order the Department to identify the reporter.

Will the dependent adult be removed from the current living arrangement?

Removal of a dependent adult from the current living situation is considered to be a last resort. Removal is considered only if the dependent adult is in immediate need of medical or other care necessary to meet daily needs that cannot be met in the current living arrangement. The Department of Human Services does not have the legal authority to remove a dependent adult. If a removal is necessary, the Department must seek the assistance of law enforcement and obtain a court order.

What if I disagree with a decision to reject the report of suspected dependent adult abuse?

A protective services supervisor makes the decision to reject a report of suspected dependent adult abuse. If you disagree with the decision to reject a report, you may request to speak with the human service area administrator.