



ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES UPDATE

Title:	Specialized Adult Protective Services Statewide
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Background Information:	<p>Background Information: Iowa Code 235B gives legal responsibility to the Department of Human Services to assess allegations of dependent adult abuse in community settings. Historically, DHS' response to adult protective services runs parallel to child protective services. Staff within field operations are tasked with conducting both child abuse assessments and adult protective assessments.</p> <p>Stakeholder Engagement: Coordination with several internal and external partners occurred to evaluate DHS' adult protective service response and provide recommendations for improvements. The internal and external partners included the MHDS division, Field Operations, the Dependent Adult Protection Advisory Council, Coordinated Community Response Team, Iowa Department of Aging staff.</p> <p>Reason for the Change: While engagement and assessment skills are consistent between child protective services and adult protective services, staff require an extensive amount of specialized knowledge in order to provide true comprehensive adult protective services.</p>
What Is Changing:	<p>What Is Changing: DHS will provide specialized adult protective service statewide by differentiating child protection staff (workers and supervisors) from adult protection staff (workers and supervisors).</p> <p>Who Is Impacted: This will allow adult protective service staff to become well-versed in area of focus specific to adult protection including: dependency determinations, the process of aging, understanding disability, concepts</p>

	<p>of self-determination, and services available to older and disabled adults. This will allow for appropriate referrals and impact positive results for vulnerable lowans.</p>
<p>What Is Not Changing:</p>	<p>DHS maintains the same legal responsibility as outlined in Iowa Code 235B for dependent adult abuse services. There will be no change in general provisions, definitions, reports, access, or interventions for dependent adult abuse services.</p>
<p>Expected Benefits:</p>	<p>Specialized adult protection staff will become familiar with community resources that can mitigate risk to vulnerable lowans. Specialized adult protection staff will be able to explore concepts specific to adult protection including dependency vs vulnerability, rights of self-determination, strategies to mitigate risk associated with the aging process, nuances of financial exploitation, and disability resources. Specialized adult protection staff will be able to develop valuable collaborative partnerships with entities including: County Attorneys, Attorney General's Office, Iowa Department of Aging, Developmental Disabilities Council, Disability Rights Iowa, Department of Human Rights, Iowa Veterans Administration, Iowa Insurance Division, and the six Area Agency on Aging.</p>