

Subdivision within MN Statute 626.557 Subd. 9b. **Response to reports.** Each lead investigative agency shall develop guidelines for prioritizing reports for investigation.

Renville County Vulnerable Adult Maltreatment Investigation Prioritization Guidelines

Adult Maltreatment Reports received by the Lead Investigative Agency will be reviewed by that counties supervisor and screened for investigation. The screening will include utilizing the Minnesota Adult Protection Structured Decision Making and Standardized Tools.

Investigation Criteria:

1. The adult meets the definition of a Vulnerable Adult as described in MN Statues 626.5572.

Categorical Vulnerable Adult: The person is a resident of a facility or receives licensed services. Excludes outpatient services for treatment of chemical dependency or mental illness and inpatient services provided though the Minnesota sex offender program.

Functional Vulnerable Adult: The person has a physical or mental infirmity that impairs his/her ability to provide food, clothing, shelter, health care or supervision without assistance and because of the infirmity and is unable to protect themselves from maltreatment.

2. A specific type of maltreatment is being alleged as described in Mn Statutes 626.5572

A Report Which Alleges Abuse:

Physical Abuse:

Use of physical force that is non-accidental or non-therapeutic which produces or could be reasonably expected to produce physical pain or injury.

Emotional Abuse:

The misuse of power, authority or both; verbal harassment; unreasonable confinement; or behavior that is not accidental or therapeutic which produces or could reasonably be expected to produce mental anguish or emotional distress.

Sexual Abuse:

Contact or interaction of a sexual nature involving a vulnerable adult and a licensed provider or contact or interaction of a sexual nature involving a vulnerable adult without his/her informed consent.

A Report Which Alleges Neglect:

Neglect by a Caregiver:

A failure or omission by a caregiver that results in the deprivation of essential services or supports necessary to maintain the mental, emotional or physical health, comfort or safety of a vulnerable adult. (*Note – does not include situations in which the vulnerable adult refuses assistance.)

Self-Neglect:

An act or omission by a vulnerable adult that results or could result in the deprivation of essential services or supports necessary to obtain or maintain his/her minimum health, safety or comfort.

A Report Which Alleges Financial Exploitation:

A. The use of a vulnerable adult's person or property for another person's profit or advantage or;
B. The breach of a fiduciary relationship through the use of a person or person's property for any purpose not in the proper and lawful execution of a trust. (Including but not limited to situations where a person obtains money, property, or services from a vulnerable adult through the use of undue influence, harassment, duress, deception, or fraud.)

3. Does the person's formal and/or informal support system lack the ability to resolve the presenting problem or crisis?
 - a. If the vulnerable adult receives ongoing case management services:
 - Self-neglect reports can be addressed through case management or an assessment without determination.
 - b. If the vulnerable adult does not receive ongoing case management or other formal supports, can the presenting problem be resolved at intake through a referral for MnCHOICES assessment or other service?

If the individual meets the definition of vulnerable adult and there is a maltreatment allegation that can't be resolved at intake or case management, an assessment with determination or an assessment without determination will be opened depending on the allegation.

Additional Considerations:

1. If it can't be determined that individual is a vulnerable adult at the time of screening based on the intake, but there is an allegation of maltreatment, the report will be assigned to determine if the individual meets the definition of a vulnerable adult. If it is determined that the individual is not a vulnerable after contact has been made the assessment will be closed with determination not possible as not a vulnerable adult.
2. If RCHS receives a maltreatment report that alleges Self-Neglect and the vulnerable adult has a current case manager, the maltreatment report will be referred to the case manager and ruled out for investigation. Adult protection will not provide on-going protective services for clients who are already open for case management. Case management is assumed to meet the client's ongoing protective needs. If the allegation meets the criteria for emergency protective services, Adult Protection will provide immediate services for protection.
3. Duplicate reports that are currently being investigated or have recently been investigated may be screened out unless additional information is made available.
4. County jails are not licensed by any agency covered by the Vulnerable Adult statute; county agencies are considered to be the lead investigative agency by statute. If RCHS received a maltreatment report from a vulnerable adult residing in the Renville County Jail, the supervisor will refer the report to another county to screen for and complete an investigation per that county's guidelines.
5. In the event of the death of a vulnerable adult either prior to a report being received or during the course of an investigation. The following factors will be considered in determining whether or continue or discontinue the investigation:
 - a. Maltreatment allegation
 - b. Cause and time of death
 - c. Alleged perpetrator and law enforcement involvement

EMERGENCY ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Reports constituting serious harm, or current danger to the life or health of the Vulnerable Adult will receive priority assignment.

1. The vulnerable adult is more likely than not to die as a result of the alleged maltreatment
2. Current health status will be unable to be maintained and the vulnerable adult will likely suffer from decreased function, requiring medical care
3. The vulnerable adult is still at risk of experiencing serious harm or injury due to the alleged maltreatment

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