

## CHECKLIST

# Suspect Neglect of an Older Adult?: What to Do

Contact APS if you come across some of the following observations on access, and appearance or concerns.

### Access Limitations

- ✓ Have you noticed that the adult has not been able to receive visitors?
  - Friends, family, neighbors, faith community members, etc.?
  - Service providers from home health care, cleaning services, lawn services, food delivery, etc.?
- ✓ Have you noticed that routines have changed?
  - Doctor's appointment missed?
  - Appointments for hair care missed?
  - Not attending social gatherings?
  - Are they going to the senior center?
  - Are they going out for walks?
- ✓ Has someone recently moved into the home?
  - Adult child or grandchild?
  - A new "friend" or "tenant" to provide care or other chores?
  - Is that care in fact being provided?
- ✓ Has the adult been able to see their doctor?
- ✓ If the adult was driving, have they suddenly stopped driving?

### Home and Vehicle Concerns

- ✓ Has the outside appearance of the home changed?
  - Lawn care has become limited or stopped all together?
  - Is trash noticeable or not placed in proper containers?
- ✓ Is mail accumulating?
- ✓ Are there signs of hoarding?
- ✓ Are utilities on?
- ✓ If the adult has a car, does it appear to be in safe driving condition?:
  - Do the tires seem safe?
  - Are there any dents on the car recently?
  - Are they lending it to anyone to drive?



## Physical Concerns

- ✔ Have you noticed a decline in personal appearance/hygiene?
  - Body odor?
  - Hair not washed/ combed?
  - Clothes not clean, nor weather appropriate?
  - Fingernails/toenails dirty and too long?
- ✔ Is there sudden weight loss and are their clothes not fitting properly?
- ✔ Are they able to walk?
- ✔ Are they receiving their prescribed medications?
- ✔ Are there any untreated medical conditions or injuries?
- ✔ Have you observed any physical, cognitive or mental decline in the adult?
- ✔ Is the adult no longer socializing with friends, neighbors, etc.?
- ✔ Does the adult have access to food in the home?

## Emotional Concerns

- ✔ Is the adult tearful at times?
- ✔ Does the adult seem intimidated or afraid of their caregiver?
  - Do they wait until the caregiver leaves the room to talk?
  - Do they look to the caregiver for permission to talk?
- ✔ Does the adult make excuses for their appearance or the appearance of their home, stating the caregiver “does so much.”?

## Financial Concerns

- ✔ Does the adult know where their income is and how their bills are paid?
- ✔ Have adult children, other relatives, friends stepped in to pay bills?
- ✔ Are bills being paid?
- ✔ Do you notice any signs that the caregiver is financially dependent on the adult?
  - Is the caregiver repeatedly asking for money?
  - Is the caregiver threatening to abandon or place the adult in a facility?

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## Don't hesitate to reach out to someone.

Adult Protective Services is trained to look into potential neglect. Here's where to find assistance:

[National Adult Protective Services Association](#)

[NCEA Home](#)



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