



Safeguarding Adults - Quick Reference Guide

Safeguarding is a multi-agency process defined in section 42 of the Care Act 2014.

A Safeguarding adults concern should be raised if a person is aged 18 years or over.

S.42 Enquiry by local authority

S. 42 of the Care Act 2014 states:

1. This section applies where a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that an adult in its area (whether or not ordinarily resident there)
 - (a) has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs),
 - (b) is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
 - (c) as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.
2. The local authority must make (or cause to be made) whatever enquiries it thinks necessary to enable it to decide whether any action should be taken in the adult's case (whether under this Part or otherwise) and, if so, what and by whom.
3. "Abuse" includes financial abuse; and for that purpose, "financial abuse" includes
 - (a) having money or other property stolen,
 - (b) being defrauded,
 - (c) being put under pressure in relation to money or other property, and
 - (d) having money or other property misused.

Care and Support Needs

These are needs linked to a physical or mental impairment. This includes conditions such as:

- A result of either physical, mental, sensory, learning or cognitive disabilities
- Illnesses
- Substance misuse
- Brain injury

A formal diagnosis of the condition is not required.

Definition of Abuse

Abuse or neglect may be deliberate, or the result of negligence or ignorance. Unintentional abuse or neglect arises, for example, because pressures have built up on a caring relationship, or a person does not have the correct knowledge, training or support.

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Categories of abuse

You must not limit your view of what establishes abuse or neglect, each case should be considered in a person-centred way and on the individual circumstances. Someone may be experiencing or be at risk of multiple types of abuse.

Immediate Action

Making sure the immediate risk is minimised

What are the immediate risks?

If you feel that the person is at immediate risk of harm from abuse, take any action necessary including contacting for an ambulance if there are health concerns or the police. This also includes supporting the person in any other way to minimise risk for example getting the person to a place of safety, informing the management of a service, supporting the person with a basic safety plan (e.g., who/how they could contact for help in the short-term) etc.

Are there any children at risk?

Consider do you also need to raise a Child Safeguarding concern. To raise a Safeguarding Children concern, you must phone Call Derbyshire 08456 058 058 and choose the care of a child option.

Consent

Has the person or their representative consented to having the safeguarding concern reported to Adult Social Care? If no, please choose one of the following reasons why the safeguarding concern can go ahead anyway:

- The patient lacks capacity and it is deemed to be in their best interests,
- The need for public interest outweighs the need for confidentiality,
- The patient or others are deemed to be at risk of significant harm/requires intervention,
- The patient or others are deemed to be at risk of death,
- A serious crime has been committed.

Where the person is able to consent, they should be informed that safeguarding is a multi-agency process where services will work with them to protect them from harm or neglect.

Where the person lacks capacity and it is appropriate, their next of kin or other representative (advocate etc.) should be informed.

Making Safeguarding Personal

- What is the person's (or representative's) view about the concern?
- What would they like to happen as a result of the referral? What would help them to feel safe?

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Referral to adult care

If you know abuse is taking place or there is reasonable cause to suspect abuse is taking place you must refer to the local authority as soon as reasonably practicable and no later than 24 hours. This should be done through the [safeguarding adults referral form](#) and over the phone.

The following information is needed by Adult Care in Safeguarding referrals so please have it ready where possible.

a. Person's details

- Personal details (Full name, DOB, address, gender, telephone number)
- Carer's/Next of Kin details (full name, address and contact information).
- GP name and address of GP surgery.
- Any other services you know are involved or have referred to.
- Ethnicity / Any cultural or language needs.
- Home circumstances: Who lives with the person? It is important to note other adults or children living in the same household.

b. What are the reasons for your concerns (observations/indicators)

- Physical Signs
- Behavioural Signs
- Inconsistent Story
- Environment
- Disclosure by Victim
- Disclosure by other
- Substance misuse
- Drugs Misuse
- Alcohol Misuse
- Other

c. Why is the person considered to be at risk? (Care and Support Needs)

- Physical Disability
- Sensory impairment

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- Learning Disability
- Mental Health Problems
- Older Person
- Long term Condition
- Repeat/Frequent Caller
- Institutional care
- In receipt of Community Care Services
- Language Barrier
- Self-harm
- Expressing Suicidal Thoughts
- Other

d. What are the presenting concerns? (What you are reporting as a result of your concerns):

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional/Psychological Abuse
- Financial Abuse
- Discriminatory Abuse
- Institutional Abuse (Professional care standards)
- Neglect (Third Party)
- Domestic Abuse
- Concern for Welfare
- Self-neglect
- Modern Slavery
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Other (e.g., Exploitation or Trafficking)

Think about Outcomes

What do you want or expect from this referral?

What does the adult or their representative want or expect from this referral?

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For further information please refer to [DSAB Practice Guidance](#)