



Report Abuse, Neglect or Exploitation

Incidents in Private Homes

(601) 359-4158

Involving Medicaid providers or patient abuse within a health care facility:

(601) 359-4220 or (800) 852-8341

Learn more about the Attorney General's efforts to prevent and combat elder abuse at AttorneyGeneralLynnFitch.com

*The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit receives 75 percent of its funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under a grant award totaling \$3,290,100 for Federal fiscal year (FY) 2020. The remaining 25 percent, totaling \$1,960,700 for FY 2020, is funded by the State of Mississippi.

ABUSE, NEGLECT, & EXPLOITATION

PROTECTING OUR LOVED ONES



The Attorney General's Office houses two separate units charged with enforcing laws to protect our vulnerable residents from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Vulnerable Persons Unit

The Vulnerable Persons Unit investigates and prosecutes persons who abuse, neglect, or exploit a vulnerable person residing in a private home.

Medicaid Fraud Control Unit

The Mississippi Medicaid Fraud Control Unit conducts a statewide program for the investigation and prosecution of health care providers who defraud the Medicaid program. In addition, the MFCU reviews complaints of abuse or neglect against patients in health care facilities and may review complaints of the theft of patients' private funds in these facilities.



Lynn Fitch
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Office of the Attorney General
Medicaid Fraud Control Unit

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Who is a Vulnerable Person?

A vulnerable person is a person who cannot perform normal activities of daily living or protect themselves from abuse, neglect or exploitation due to a mental, emotional, physical or developmental disability or brain damage, or the infirmities of aging. All residents or patients in care facilities are considered vulnerable persons.

Abusers of a vulnerable person can include caregivers or trusted individuals such as family members, friends or acquaintances. Abusers can also be employees of health care facilities.

Indicators of Abuse and/or Neglect

- Burns or bruises
- Pinch marks or puncture wounds
- Sudden weight loss that is not associated with a known medical condition
- Untrimmed nails, unwashed, unshaven or unclean hair
- Use of chemical or physical restraints without physician orders
- Clothing that is inappropriate for the weather, or filthy, torn, too big, too small, lack of clothing

What is Abuse and Neglect of a Vulnerable Person?

Abuse is an act or omission of an act against the vulnerable person that causes physical pain, injury, or mental anguish. Abuse includes the unreasonable confinement of a vulnerable person or the willful deprivation of services by a caretaker.

Neglect is the failure of a caretaker to supply the vulnerable person with food, clothing, shelter, health care, or other services necessary to maintain mental or physical health.

Indicators of Exploitation

- Unusual or inappropriate activity in bank accounts
- Improper signatures on checks or documents
- Strangers accompanying the vulnerable person to the bank
- Recent changes to power of attorney
- Numerous unpaid bills
- Lack of amenities, such as TV, personal grooming items, or appropriate clothing that the person could normally afford
- Commingling vulnerable person's funds with caregiver's funds

What is Exploitation of a Vulnerable Person?

Exploitation is the illegal or improper use of a vulnerable person or their resources for another's profit, advantage or unjust enrichment, with or without the consent of the vulnerable person, and may include actions taken pursuant to a power of attorney.

If You Suspect Abuse or Exploitation

If you notice signs, ask your loved one about it, and bring your concerns to the attention of their facility or caregiver.

Trust your instincts. If you feel that your loved one is afraid to reveal the abuse, pursue the matter further.

