



FROSTBURG CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

37 BROADWAY, FROSTBURG, MD 21532 ◦ 301-689-3000 (P) 301-687-0642 (F)

Adult Protective Services Notifications

I. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to provide directives about notifications and follow-ups pertaining to Abuse, Neglect, Self-Neglect, and Exploitation of Vulnerable Adults.

II. Definitions:

- A. **“Abuse”** means any the sustaining of a physical injury by a vulnerable adult as a result of cruel or inhumane treatment or as a result of a malicious act by any person. Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 14-101(b).
- B. **“Adult Protective Services” (“APS”)** means the unit of the Maryland Department of Social Services responsible for the investigation of Abuse, Neglect, Self-neglect, and Exploitation of Vulnerable Adults.
- C. **“Department”** means the Police Department of the City of Frostburg.
- D. **“Exploitation”** means any action involving the misuse of a Vulnerable Adult’s funds, property, or person. Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law 14-101(f).
- E. **“Neglect”** means the willful deprivation of a vulnerable adult of adequate food, clothing, essential medical treatment, rehabilitative therapy, shelter, or supervision. Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law 14-101(l)(1).
- F. **“Officer”** means a sworn Police Officer of the Department.
- G. **“Self-Neglect”** means the inability of a Vulnerable Adult to provide him or herself with services that are necessary for the Vulnerable Adult’s physical and mental health where the absence of such services impairs or threatens the Vulnerable Adult’s well-being. Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law 14-101(p).
- H. **“Vulnerable Adult”** means an adult who lacks the physical or mental capacity to provide for his or her well-being. Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law 14-101(q).

III. Policy:

- A. It is the policy of the Department that Officers will make notifications and arrange follow-ups on suspected Abuse, Neglect, Self-Neglect, and Exploitation of Vulnerable Adults as described in the procedures below.



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IV. Procedure:

A. APS Notification. When an Officer has reason to believe that a vulnerable adult has been subject to Abuse, Neglect, Self-neglect, or Exploitation, the Officer shall, by the end of their shift or assignment:

1. Complete a written report on the incident in the Police Reporting System;
 - a. Officers should immediately telephone APS and summon emergency medical services (as appropriate to the circumstances) if there is a substantial risk of death or serious injury; and
2. Submit the written report to APS.

B. Assistance to APS Investigators. When requested, Officers shall accompany an APS representative to contact a person of interest to a case, whether referred by the Department or not. The Department supervisor shall coordinate Officer assignments.

C. Follow-Up Investigations. Officers will conduct follow-up investigations into Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation in consultation with APS and the State's Attorney's Office ("SAO"). Officers should notify the Combined County Criminal Investigation Unit ("C3I") if circumstances involve substantial risk of death, serious physical injury or harm, matters involving a nursing home or facility, matters involving a caretaker or others in the same household, or an actual or likely Exploitation of funds or assets of at least \$1,000. Upon completing an investigation into Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation the Officer should consult with the SAO and review the case.