

REPORT – IT'S THE LAW

Learn the signs, look for them, and report any suspicions (may be anonymous). It's a crime to ignore abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a child or an adult with a disability.

LEARN

- Memorize signs and symptoms
- Visit apdcares.org/zero-tolerance for additional facts and resources

LOOK

- Keep an eye out for signs, note any sudden changes in behavior or condition
- Pay attention to physical appearance, mood, interactions with others
- Take note of caregiver's attitude (e.g., controlling, apathetic, under the influence)

REPORT

If you suspect someone is being abused, neglected, or exploited:

- If the person's life or health is in immediate danger, call 911
- **Call the Florida Abuse Hotline** toll-free at 1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873), **file a report online** at reportabuse.dcf.state.fl.us, or **fax a statement** to 800-914-0004
- Be prepared to provide the victim's name, date and circumstances of event, and victim's location

Zero Tolerance is an initiative of the Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities. Together, we can end the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of people with disabilities.



agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida

1-866-APD-CARES (1-866-273-2273)

apdcares.org/zero-tolerance

 /APDCares

 /FloridaAPD



ZERO TOLERANCE

**ENDING THE ABUSE, NEGLECT,
AND EXPLOITATION OF PEOPLE
WITH DISABILITIES**



agency for persons with disabilities
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BE THE DIFFERENCE

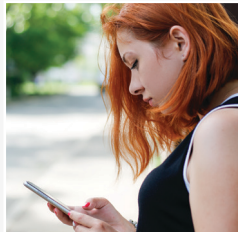
Persons with disabilities are at a much greater risk of being abused, neglected, or exploited than the general population. **But you have the power to stop these crimes.**

WHAT IS ABUSE?

- Real or threatened physical or sexual harm (in person, over phone, or online)
- Bullying, name-calling, intimidation, taunting
- Cyberbullying, including unwanted messages or photos via phone, text, email, or social media
- Encouragement of self-harm

Signs may include:

- Bruises, burns, cuts, broken bones, sudden difficulty walking or sitting
- Fear of particular person or place
- Nightmares or disrupted sleep patterns
- Sudden/unexplained changes in behavior or physical condition
- Incontinence in someone previously toilet-trained
- Vaginal or rectal pain, painful urination, frequent UTIs



WHAT IS NEGLECT?

- Failure to give someone basic care to keep them healthy and safe
- May be physical or medical (e.g., lack of supervision, diet, medication, hygiene)

Signs may include:

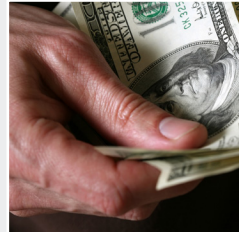
- Poor hygiene, deteriorating appearance
- Bedsores
- Dehydration
- Unexplained weight loss
- Lack of needed adaptive aids (e.g., glasses, walkers, or communication devices)
- Lack of prescribed medications or medical care
- Self-apathy

WHAT IS EXPLOITATION?

- Theft of money or property, embezzlement, other forms of financial fraud

Signs may include:

- Sudden decrease in bank account balances
- Larger or more frequent withdrawals
- Problems paying bills or buying necessities
- Changes in wills or financial documents
- Victim begins to act secretly
- Unexplained disappearance of money or possessions
- Late or unpaid bills despite adequate funds



TIPS

- Never give a stranger personal information (e.g., address, Social Security number, bank account, credit card information) in person, over the phone, or online
- Never send messages/photos to strangers through text, instant message, or social media
- If a stranger asks for personal information or photos, contact a trusted adult, caregiver, or the police

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

- Using force, fraud, or coercion to recruit, hide, transport, sell, or buy a person for sex, labor, or services as a slave
- Practices may include beating, torture, lies, withholding wages, threats of harm, intimidation, humiliation, false promises of love/friendship or money/reward
- A form of abuse and of exploitation; does not mean transporting or smuggling
- Victims are often U.S. citizens and can be any sex/gender, from any socioeconomic background

