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## RAMSEY COUNTY PRIORITY GUIDELINES

The Adult Protective Services Unit serves the vulnerable residents of Ramsey County by investigating individual reports of maltreatment and ensuring that services critical to their continued protection are in place. Maltreatment Reports are received by the MN Adult Abuse Reporting Center and are reviewed daily as received. Emergency Protective Services (EPS) reports received on weekends and holidays are screened by a coverage team. If needed staff will notify emergency personnel, but an investigative response won't be initiated until the next business day.

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### 1. RESPONSE GUIDELINES

#### Emergency Protective Services

- A. **Immediate Response (Emergency Protective Services Minnesota Statutes 626.5572 Subd. 10.)**
- There is an immediate risk of injury, loss of health or death due to intended suicide, sexual assault or other physical abuse.
- B. **Level I Response** – for residents assessed to be, or likely to be assessed as, vulnerable adults. Open for investigation. 24 Hour response.
- Abandoned and unable to function independently without care or supervision.
  - Lack of heat in winter, lack of plumbing, or ventilation.
  - Lack of access to, or lack of ability to independently seek: medical care, food, shelter or other resources critical to protect resident from injury or death if not provided immediately.
  - Sexual Assault (and resident lacks ability to engage law enforcement, seek medical attention and access community resources to support acute trauma)
  - Financial Exploitation requiring immediate action to prevent continued financial loss.
- C. **Level II Responses: Open for Investigation:** Action I required within **72 working hours** of being assigned.
- Nature of maltreatment allegation is unclear.
  - More information is needed to assess whether resident is a vulnerable adult as defined by statute.
  - It can be objectively documented that the resident's circumstances do not present risk of imminent harm.
  - Effective response necessitates involvement of other resources such as city officials or environmental management.

In addition to Adult Protective Services, responders may include law enforcement, emergency medical responders, an assigned case manager, Ramsey County Crisis and city code enforcement.

## 2. INTAKE/INVESTIGATION CRITERIA:

### A. The person meets the definition of a Vulnerable Adult as described in Minnesota Statutes 626.5572 Subd. 21, as either a:

- 1) **Categorical Vulnerable Adult:** Any person, 18 years or older, who is a resident or patient of a facility such as a hospital, group home, nursing home, day services facility, day activity center, adult foster care home, or a person who receives services from an agency licensed/certified by the MDHS or MDH, such as a home care agency, or personal care services.
- 2) **Functional Vulnerable Adult:** Any person, 18 years or older who, regardless of residence or whether any type of service is received... **1)** Possesses a physical or mental infirmity or other physical, mental or emotional dysfunction that **2)** Impairs the persons' ability to provide adequately for themselves in the areas of food, shelter, clothing, health care, or supervision, without assistance; **AND 3)** Because of this inability the individual is unable to protect themselves from maltreatment. (**MUST HAVE ALL THREE**)

**If the resident subjected to the alleged maltreatment is not determined to be a Vulnerable Adult in accordance with these criteria, the case would at this point be closed.**

If based on the statutory criteria it is established that the resident IS a Vulnerable Adult, proceed with reviewing allegation criteria. If maltreatment allegation criteria is met, proceed to opening for Investigation **unless noted to fall under established Agency Guidelines or County Prioritization Guidelines.**

## 3. REVIEWING ALLEGATION REPORT

### A. The Report alleges maltreatment as described in MN Statutes 626.5572

**Abuse:** As defined in MN Statutes 626.5572 Subd. 2

**Financial Exploitation:** As defined in MN Statutes 626.5572 Subd. 9.

#### **County Prioritization Guidelines Financial Exploitation:**

- Independent living (not licensed) Loss of \$1,000 and/or client facing inability to meet basic needs.
- Person in Facility: Needs are not being met, and/or defined risk of loss of Housing.
- Personal Property: value must exceed \$ 7,000 and is not considered strictly theft.

**Neglect:** Per MN Statute 626.5572 Subd. 17

**Self- Neglect** must consider capacity.

#### **County Prioritization Guideline Self Neglect:**

- Self -Neglect can be resolved by Case Management/Care Coordination or Current Services/Supports.

### B. The Report describes harm or detriment to the person, or a likelihood of harm.

- C. The formal or informal support system currently in place is not sufficient to resolve the present concern or to protect the vulnerable adult from further abuse.
- Formal Support system: (e.g. – Conservator or Guardian, case manager, care coordinator, representative payee, power of attorney, hospital, nursing home, mental health provider, primary physician, home care agency, Ramsey County mental health Crisis Response.
  - Informal support system: (e.g. – family, friends, neighbors, church members).

**Additional County Prioritization Guidelines:**

- 1) County Prioritization will be governed by agency resources and level of harm present to VA.** County will prioritize response based on level of harm present and ability to respond with consideration of current resources.
- 2) VA Deceased prior to Intake Determination.**  
VA is deceased and no longer in need of Protective Services, no benefit to Investigation. If a crime is suspected Report may be forwarded to Law Enforcement.
- 3) VA Incarcerated at the time of Report.**  
VA is Incarcerated and APS does not have access to privileged information held by jail to complete an Investigation. As appropriate contact information for the Ombudsman for Corrections will be provided to Reporter to submit a report about their concern.
- 4) VA no longer in the State of Minnesota.**  
County APS does not have ability to protect a VA who is no longer in the State of Minnesota. If current location is known, and maltreatment is suspected to be occurring in another state, a call to the appropriate County APS in the state in which the VA is residing will be made with the alleged maltreatment concerns.
- 5) Appears APS involvement is not needed to resolve reported allegation, or may cause further harm to VA, or VA has indicated is not interested in APS involvement at this time.**  
Based on information received it is determined that the VA or the VA and their formal or informal support system is addressing the concern reported, with their own resources or declines to address allegation at this time and there is no benefit to APS involvement. Or, upon gathering information it is determined that involvement of APS may cause further harm to VA due to risk factors assessed.
- 6) Duplicate Report of Incident.**
- 7) Not enough information to determine VA Status or Maltreatment criteria, or either the VA or Person Alleged Responsible is unable to be identified.** Efforts were made by APS and clear defining information is unable to be gathered.
- 8) Law Enforcement is Lead Investigative Agency with higher authority to address actions that meet criminal criteria.**