Your Responsibility as a Mandatory Reporter

Who is required to report? Maine law (22 MRSA §3477-3479-A) requires that if any of the following individuals suspects that an adult has been abused, neglected or exploited, and there is reasonable cause to suspect that the adult is incapacitated or dependent, then that individual shall immediately report to the Department.

- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Mental Health Professional
- Physical Therapist
- Podiatrist
- Unlicensed Assistive Personnel (i.e. DSP, PSS, CRMA)
- Clergy
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Occupational Therapist
- Physician (MD and DO)
- Psychologist
- Speech Therapist
- Dentist
- Medical Intern
- Pharmacist
- Physician’s Assistant
- Registered Nurse
- Social Worker

All residents of long-term care facilities are considered to be dependent. If you work in a health care facility and are required to report suspected abuse, neglect, and exploitation to your supervisor, you are still required to report suspected abuse to Adult Protective Services.

What are you required to report?

Abuse means the infliction of injury, unreasonable confinement, intimidation or cruel punishment that causes or is likely to cause physical harm or pain or mental anguish; sexual abuse or sexual exploitation; or the intentional, knowing or reckless deprivation of essential needs. Abuse includes acts and omissions.(22 MRSA §3472)

Exploitation means the illegal or improper use of an incapacitated or dependent adult or that adult’s resources for another’s profit or advantage.(22 MRSA §3472)

Neglect means a threat to an adult’s health or welfare by physical or mental injury or impairment, deprivation of essential needs or lack of protection from these.(22 MRSA §3472)

Where do I report? Report abuse neglect or exploitation to the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Aging and Disability Services, Adult Protective Services at Nationwide 24-hour, toll-free:1-800-624-8404, (24/7) Maine Relay 711