

## Types of Abuse You May Recognize.

Vulnerable Adult Abuse Helpline

# 1-800-996-6228

# Be a Hero!

### Physical Abuse:

Bruises, unexplained injuries, rough treatment, inappropriate use of dugs or physical restraints, or a caregiver's refusal to allow visitation of the vulnerable adult without their supervision may be signs of physical abuse.



### Sexual Abuse:

Bruises around the breasts or genital area, unwanted or inappropriate sexual behavior, or unexplained Venerable Disease or genital infections can indicate sexual abuse.



### Neglect:

Look for dirty, unkempt appearance, inappropriate clothing for the season and poor nourishment. Unclean or unsafe living conditions, or ignoring the needs of a victim either medically or physically are additional indicators of criminal neglect.

### Emotional Abuse:

Withdrawal from normal activities, unusual depression and fearfulness can indicate emotional abuse. Signs can include rocking, biting, sucking or other unusual physical symptoms.



### Financial Exploitation:

Sudden changes in a person's financial condition or someone suspiciously acting on the vulnerable adult's behalf can indicate exploitation. Also look for unauthorized withdrawals using the vulnerable adult's ATM card.



## Other Important Numbers

Nursing Home Complaints

1-800-882-6006

Home for the Aged &  
Adult Foster Care Homes

1-866-856-0126

Protection/Advocacy Services for the  
Developmentally or Mentally Disabled

1-800-288-5923

Citizens for Better Care

1-800-782-2918

Legal Aid of W. Michigan

1-888-783-8190

Legal Hotline/Older Adults

1-800-347-5297

Telemarketing Fraud

1-800-876-7060



## Vulnerable Adult Abuse is a Crime.

## Be a Hero. Make the Call.

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## Who is Considered a Vulnerable Adult?

That's an easy question to answer.

A vulnerable adult is defined by the State of Michigan as "A condition in which an adult is unable to protect himself or herself from abuse, neglect, or exploitation because of a mental or physical impairment or because of advanced age."



Vulnerable adults are sometimes the target of abuse from their care providers who target them with physical, psychological or financial abuse. Many times the vulnerable adult feels they have no other alternative but to continue suffering at the hands of their tormentors.

But today there is a resource to turn to for help. By calling the Vulnerable Adult Abuse Helpline at 1-800-996-6228 you can begin the process of helping these people find a way to break the cycle of abuse and find the care they so desperately need and deserve.

## Be a Hero to Someone in Need

We can all do our part.

Vulnerable people in desperate situations need your help now. They are mired in a cycle of abuse that can destroy their lives. You know it. You've seen it. It is not only your responsibility to protect those who cannot protect themselves, it is your duty.



Many of us observe this happening and do not realize it is a crime for a person to abuse (either physically, emotionally or financially) a person in their care.

When you suspect vulnerable adult abuse call right away. With one simple phone call you can break the cycle of abuse.

When you call the Vulnerable Adult Abuse Helpline at 1-800-996-6228, authorities will be notified and allegations will be investigated by people who know what to do to break this cycle of abuse.



There is no reason not to call as your call will be confidential and you may remain anonymous.

Give someone their life back....  
Be a Hero.

## Where to Report Locally

### Michigan Department of Human Services

#### Adult Protective Services

Muskegon County

231-733-3612

After Hours 231-733-8281

Oceana County

231-873-2106

Ottawa County

616-394-7220

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