

Nebraska Dependent Adult Abuse Reporting

Nebraska has reporting regulations on suspected abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults, including adults age eighteen or older who have substantial mental or functional impairment, a court appointed guardian or conservator.

Who do I contact to report an incident in Nebraska?

Nebraska Adult Protective Services, within the Department of Health and Human Services, takes reports and investigates suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of vulnerable adults.

To report suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a vulnerable adult in Nebraska, call the Adult Protective Services hotline at 800-652-1999, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

How much time do I have to report an incident?

Mandatory reporters who, in professional capacity or within the scope of employment, have reasonable cause to believe a vulnerable adult has been subjected to abuse, neglect, or exploitation must report the information to law enforcement or to the Department of Health and Human Services as soon as possible. **Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-372**

What is a “vulnerable adult” in Nebraska?

A vulnerable adult is any person eighteen years of age or older who has a substantial mental or functional impairment or for whom a guardian or conservator has been appointed under the Nebraska Probate Code. **Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-371**

What situations require reporting in Nebraska?

A report is required when a mandatory reporter, while working in a professional capacity or within the scope of employment, has reasonable cause to believe a vulnerable adult has been subjected to abuse, neglect, or exploitation, or observes a vulnerable adult in conditions or circumstances that reasonably would result in abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Any other person with reasonable cause to believe a vulnerable adult faces abuse, neglect, or exploitation is permitted to report to law enforcement or to the Department of Health and Human Services.

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-372

What is “abuse,” “neglect,” and “exploitation” of a vulnerable adult in Nebraska?

“Abuse” means any knowing or intentional act on the part of a caregiver or any other person that results in physical injury, unreasonable confinement, cruel punishment, sexual abuse, or sexual exploitation of a vulnerable adult. **Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-351**

“Neglect” means a knowing or intentional act or omission on the part of a caregiver to provide essential services, or the failure of a vulnerable adult, due to physical or mental impairments, to perform self-care or obtain essential services, to such an extent that there is actual physical injury to a vulnerable adult or imminent danger of the vulnerable adult suffering physical injury or death. **Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-361.01**

“Exploitation” means the wrongful or unauthorized taking, withholding, appropriation, conversion, control, or use of money, funds, securities, assets, or any other property of a vulnerable adult or senior adult by any person through undue influence, breach of a fiduciary relationship, deception, extortion, intimidation, force or threat of force, isolation, or another

unlawful means, or through breach of a fiduciary duty by a guardian, conservator, agent under a power of attorney, trustee, or other fiduciary of a vulnerable adult or adult 65 and older. **Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-358**

Who is a mandatory reporter in Nebraska?

A person who works as a doctor, physician assistant, nurse, nurse aide, psychologist, counselor, and other medical, developmental disability, or mental health staff. It also includes law enforcement officers, paid caregivers who help adults in their homes, staff who work in sheltered workshops or similar day programs for people with disabilities, and staff who work in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, group homes, or other programs that provide care or services to adults. Social workers, case managers, and other human services workers who support older adults or adults with disabilities. **Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-372**

Are Clergy mandatory reporters in Nebraska?

No. **Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-372**

Where can I find Nebraska law on elder and dependent adult abuse?

Nebraska's Adult Protective Services Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 28-350 to 28-37. The Nebraska Protection of Vulnerable Adults from Financial Exploitation Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 8-2901 to 8-2909.