

Report Suspected Abuse

Take the time to learn the signs of abuse, neglect and exploitation—and report them!

It is not only your moral and ethical obligation to report suspected abuse, but also your legal obligation to report abuse if suspected.

On average, only 1 out of every 24 abuse cases is reported. Many times it's because the loved one or caregiver controls the situation, so no reports are ever made.

Stopping the abuse of vulnerable adults must start with you!

IF YOU SEE OR SUSPECT ABUSE OR NEGLECT, CONTACT ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES AT 1-888-APS-TENN

or
<https://reportadultabuse.dhs.tn.gov>

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

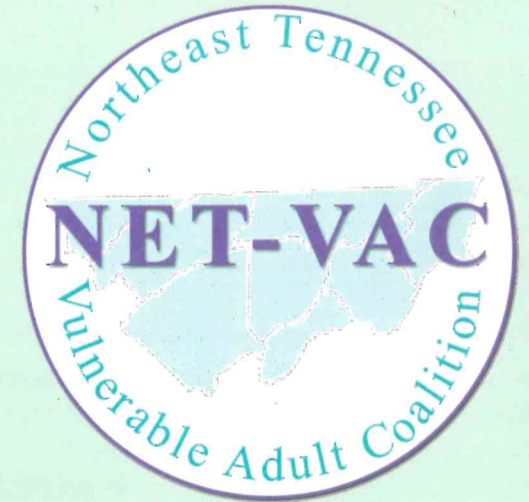
Call the First Tennessee Area Agency on Aging and Disability

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Awareness • Education • Healing
Solutions • Protection • Advocacy



Protecting vulnerable adults—those most likely to be abused, neglected and exploited



What Is NET-VAC?

The Northeast Tennessee Vulnerable Adult Coalition (NET-VAC) is a collaboration of public and private entities to address the issue of abuse of vulnerable adults in Carter, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi and Washington counties.

NET-VAC is dedicated to raising public and professional awareness of the types and extent of elder abuse in the region through community education and outreach campaigns. Vulnerable adults are abused, exploited and neglected by caregivers and loved ones. It is very important that the public realizes they have a legal obligation to report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation.

NET-VAC also advocates for social and legislative action toward solutions that address the needs of abuse victims.

Who Are Vulnerable Adults?

Any older person, or person age 18 or older with a developmental disability, who may be unable to take care of themselves or unable to protect themselves against harm or exploitation.



What Are the Types of Abuse?

Neglect—When basic needs are not met by a caregiver. Neglect can be unintentional due to a caregiver's lack of understanding or lack of ability to provide the services the vulnerable adult needs. Neglect can also be intentional, when the caregiver refuses to meet the adult's needs.

Self-Neglect—When the adult is unable to care for themselves, or obtain the care that they need.

Abuse (Physical, Emotional or Sexual)—Often involves more extreme forms of harm to the adult, including the infliction of pain, injury, mental anguish, unreasonable confinement, or other similar treatment.

Financial Exploitation—When a caregiver improperly uses funds which are intended for the adult's care and personal use. These funds are often paid to the adult or caregiver by a government agency.

Be a Part of the Solution—Become Involved with NET-VAC!

What Are the Signs of Abuse?

Unexplained withdrawal from normal activities, unusual alertness, and sudden onset of depression are all signs of possible emotional abuse.

Sudden changes in financial situations may be a sign of exploitation.

Behavior such as belittling, threats, and other misuses of power and control by a spouse, caregiver or family member can be indicators of verbal or emotional abuse.

Strained or tense relationships between the adult and caregiver can also be a sign of abuse.



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