Mandatory Reporting

In 2010, New Jersey’s APS law (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-406 to 426) was amended to require health care professionals, law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics or emergency medical technicians who have reasonable cause to believe that a vulnerable adult is the subject of abuse, neglect or exploitation to report that information to the county Adult Protection Services office.

IT’S THE LAW.

Adults retain all their civil and constitutional rights unless some of those rights have been restricted by court action.

What is Adult Protective Services?

Adult Protective Services (APS) programs have been established in each county in New Jersey to receive and investigate reports of suspected abuse, neglect and exploitation of vulnerable adults living in a community setting.

The Purpose of APS:
Stabilize a crisis situation using the least intrusive methods while respecting an individual’s right to self-determination.

APS CASES
APS may become involved in situations that meet all of these conditions:

A vulnerable adult is:
- Age 18 years or older, AND
- Residing in the community, AND
- Due to physical or mental illness, disability or deficiency, lacks sufficient understanding or capacity to make, communicate, or carry out decisions concerning his or her well-being, AND
- Is the subject of abuse, neglect or exploitation.

A community setting is:
- A private residence, OR
- Any non-institutional setting not licensed by, operated by, or under contract with, a State department or agency.

Making a Referral to APS:
The referral should be made by the person with first-hand information about the client.
The referral should be made directly to the county in which the client resides.
The referral should consist of as much information as possible, including:
- Client’s name, address, phone number
- DOB and Social Security number
- Diagnoses – health and/or mental health issues
- Family members/support systems (services/agencies involved)
- A specific allegation of abuse, neglect or exploitation

CONFIDENTIALITY
All records and communications pertaining to any report, evaluation or service provided pursuant to the Adult Protective Services Act (P.L. 1993, Ch. 249, C52:27D) are confidential.

APS is only permitted to share the results of an APS assessment when directed to do so by a court of competent jurisdiction or when disclosure of information is necessary for the Division or the APS provider to perform its responsibilities as set forth by statute.

Limits to Assistance
An APS worker is not authorized to:
- remove a vulnerable adult from his or her home without a court order.
- force an adult with capacity to accept services.
- move an individual to an alternate living situation without his/her agreement or a legal representative’s agreement.

Mandatory Reporting

In 2010, New Jersey’s APS law (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-406 to 426) was amended to require health care professionals, law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics or emergency medical technicians who have reasonable cause to believe that a vulnerable adult is the subject of abuse, neglect or exploitation to report that information to the county Adult Protection Services office.

IT’S THE LAW.
Atlantic
Atlantic County Division of Intergenerational Services
Shoreview Building
101 South Shore Road
Northfield, NJ 08225
Phone: 888-426-9243 or 609-645-5965
After Hours: Call local police or 911 in case of emergency
www.atlantic-county.org

Bergen
Bergen County Board of Social Services
218 Route 17 North
Rochelle Park, NJ 07662
Phone: 201-368-4300
After Hours: 1-800-624-0275
www.bcbss.com

Burlington
Resources for Independent Living, Inc.
351 High Street, Suite 103
Burlington, NJ 08016
Phone: 609-747-7745
After Hours: Call local police or 911 in case of emergency
www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/social/socserv.htm

Camden
Camden County Board of Social Services
600 Market Street
Camden, NJ 08102
Phone: 856-225-0255
After Hours: contact local police or 911
www.mcboss.org

Middlesex
Family and Children's Services
191 Bath Avenue
Long Branch, NJ 07740
Phone: 732-745-3635
After Hours: Call local police or 911 in case of emergency
www.fcsmonmouth.org

Morris
Morris County Office on Aging, Disabilities and Community Programming
340 West Hanover Avenue
Morristown, NJ 07960
Phone: 973-326-7282
After Hours: 973-326-7282
www.morrishumanservices.org

For additional information:
NJ Department of Human Services • Division of Aging Services • PO Box 812, Trenton, NJ 08625-0812
Phone: 609-588-6501 • Emergency or After Hours: 911 or local police
www.state.nj.us/humanservices/doas/services/aps