

Do You Know An Adult Who Needs Help?

There are warning signs that friends, neighbors and relatives should learn to recognize:

- ✧ There is no sign of activity at the home of a person living alone; mail and newspapers may pile up.
- ✧ A vulnerable adult is dependent on a stressed, mentally ill or substance abusing caregiver.
- ✧ An adult is seen wandering outdoors in frigid weather without adequate clothing.
- ✧ An elderly neighbor has become frail and malnourished, and refuses your offer of assistance.
- ✧ A disabled or elderly person shows bruises and other signs of possible physical abuse.
- ✧ A person shows confusion and forgetfulness over money, leaving essential bills unpaid.

Who Needs Help?

Adults, 18 or older, may need protective services for a variety of reasons:

- ✧ They may have a physical or mental impairment;
- ✧ They may no longer be able to protect themselves from neglect, abuse or hazardous situations;
- ✧ They cannot provide for their most basic needs for food, clothing, shelter or medical care; and,
- ✧ They have no one willing or able to help in a responsible manner.

What Are The Individual's Rights?

Adults have a right to make their own decisions. They may choose to accept or refuse the services PSA offers.

In cases of extreme need, the local Department of Social Services is required to intervene to protect the individual.

What Services Are Available?

Protective Services for Adults (PSA) can provide services to strengthen an adult's ability to live in the community as long as possible.

PSA services include:

- ✧ Investigation of requests for help;
- ✧ A home visit to identify needs and arrange for services, medical care or other resources in the community;
- ✧ Money management services;
- ✧ Referral to legal services;
- ✧ Assistance in finding other living arrangements;
- ✧ Services to obtain a guardian;
- ✧ Homemaker and housekeeper/chore services in certain cases; and,
- ✧ Assistance in obtaining other benefits and services.

What Will Services Cost?

PSA services are free to all adults in need of them, regardless of income.

What Can I Do?

A family member, a friend, a neighbor or other concerned person who is worried about an individual who may need adult protective services can call the local Department of Social Services. Referrals may be made anonymously. Individuals who recognize their own need for help may call for themselves.

Who Should I Call?

Call your local Department of Social Services and ask for Protective Services for Adults.

For Suffolk County

Adult Protective Services call:

(631) 854-3232

Suffolk County Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 18100
Hauppauge, New York 11788-8900

Visit our website at:
www.suffolkcountyny.gov/departments/socialservices.aspx