

Subdivision within MN Statute 626.557 Subd. 9b. **Response to reports.** Each lead investigative agency shall develop guidelines for prioritizing reports for investigation.

LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY FAMILY SERVICES Vulnerable Adult Maltreatment Investigation Prioritization Guidelines

Maltreatment reports for which Lac qui Parle County is the lead agency for investigation will be screened for investigation, taking into account the seriousness of the incident as well as prior allegations regarding the alleged perpetrator. The following is a general guide showing which reports will be assigned for investigation.

Must meet the criteria to be considered a functional or categorical vulnerable adult:

The adult must be either a resident of a facility*, receiving licensed services (categorical vulnerable adult) or meet the criteria to be a functional vulnerable adult, as follows:

A. The adult must exhibit symptoms of impaired ability that has a negative impact on their ability to care for themselves or direct their own care, and:

B. The impairment must also render the adult unable to protect themselves from maltreatment.

* Excludes outpatient services for treatment of chemical dependency or mental illness and inpatient services provided through the Minnesota sex offender program.

To the extent possible, the report must be of sufficient content to identify the vulnerable adult, the caregiver, the nature and extent of the suspected maltreatment, any evidence of previous maltreatment, the name and address of the reporter, the time, date, and location of the incident, and any other information that the reporter believes might be helpful in investigating the suspected maltreatment.

A specific type of maltreatment is being alleged.

Definitions are further outlined in MN Statute 626.5572

I. A Report Which Alleges Abuse:

A. Physical Abuse:

Use of physical force that is non-accidental or non-therapeutic which produces or could be reasonably expected to produce physical pain or injury.

B. Emotional Abuse

The misuse of power, authority or both; verbal harassment; unreasonable confinement; or behavior that is not accidental or therapeutic which produces or could reasonably be expected to produce mental anguish or emotional distress.

C. Sexual Abuse

Contact or interaction of a sexual nature involving a vulnerable adult and a licensed provider or contact or interaction of a sexual nature involving a vulnerable adult without his/her informed consent.

II. A Report Which Alleges Neglect:

A. Neglect by a Caregiver

A failure or omission by a caregiver that results in the deprivation of essential services or supports necessary to maintain the mental, emotional or physical health, comfort or safety of a vulnerable adult.

(*Note – does not include situations in which the vulnerable adult refuses assistance.)

B. Self-Neglect

An act or omission by a vulnerable adult that results or could result in the deprivation of essential services or supports necessary to obtain or maintain his/her minimum health, safety or comfort.

III. A Report Which Alleges Financial Exploitation:

A. The use of a vulnerable adult's person or property for another person's profit or advantage or;

B. The breach of a fiduciary relationship through the use of a person or person's property for any purpose not in the proper and lawful execution of a trust.

(Including but not limited to situations where a person obtains money, property, or services from a vulnerable adult through the use of undue influence, harassment, duress, deception, or fraud.)

Law enforcement is the primary agency to conduct the investigation when the allegation may be criminal.

*If the allegation concerns a vulnerable adult who receives services licensed or required to be licensed by the MN Department of Health or the MN Department of Human Services, the report is received by that licensing agency.

*Allegations of maltreatment of a vulnerable adult where the alleged perpetrator is not the provider or employee of a facility or service/program will be reviewed by a screening team and assigned to a county investigator.

*The incident must be investigated by the county in which the incident occurred, regardless of where the vulnerable adult resides.

EMERGENCY ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Reports constituting serious harm, or current danger to the life or health of the Vulnerable Adult will receive priority assignment.

- A. The vulnerable adult is more likely than not to die as a result of the alleged maltreatment
- B. Current health status will be unable to be maintained and the vulnerable adult will likely suffer from decreased function, requiring medical care
- C. The vulnerable adult is still at risk of experiencing serious harm or injury due to the alleged maltreatment