

Vulnerable Adult Act Summary

Minnesota Statutes, Section 245A.65 and Section 626.557

The following is a summary of the Vulnerable Adult Protection Act. Minnesota Statutes, Section 245A.11 subd. 10 (a) 2, which requires that a person receiving services in a licensed program and their legal representative are provided a copy of this summary upon admission.

Because you live in adult foster care, and are receiving services, you are considered a vulnerable adult. A vulnerable adult has protections under Minnesota's law. This is a summary of those protections.

You are protected from being maltreated. Here are types of maltreatment:

- Neglect: someone fails to provide you with the necessary food, shelter, clothing, health care, or supervision that you need.
- Abuse: someone physically, emotionally, or sexually harms you, or uses restraints, has you take a time-out, or punishes you.
- Financial exploitation: someone misuses, steals, or refuses to give you your money, or the program forces you to work for another person's financial gain.

What is a mandated reporter?

- A mandated reporter is a person who is required to report if they think you have been maltreated or have an injury that cannot be explained.

Who are mandated reporters?

- Your guardian or representative payee, if you have one.
- Anyone working at your home.
- All staff that work with you.
- Your doctors, social worker, teachers, and other service providers.

Who else may report maltreatment?

- You.
- Anyone who cares about you.
- Anyone who thinks you may have been maltreated.

Can I or anyone else get in trouble for making a report?

- You cannot be punished for making a report.
- Employees of the program are protected by Minnesota law, if they make a report in good faith.

When should a report be made?

- Mandated reporters must make a report within 24 hours.
- Anyone else can make a report at any time.

How does a report get made?

- Anyone can make a report by calling the Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center (MAARC) 1-844-880-1574.
- Mandated reporters may make a report online.

What happens once a report is made?

- If needed, the police will be told.
- The report will be looked at to see if there are immediate health and safety concerns. If there are, the county agency you live in will come out to make sure you are safe.
- Within 2 days, the report will be given to the Department of Human Services (DHS) to be reviewed.
- DHS will decide if the report needs to be investigated.
- If the report is investigated, DHS has 60 days to finish the investigation.

If DHS decides that maltreatment did not happen, what can I do?

- A letter will be sent to you or your guardian that will give you instructions on what to do, if you do not agree.

If DHS decides that maltreatment happened, what can my program or staff do?

- A letter will be sent to them that will give them instructions on what to do, if they do not agree.