Reporting Abuse or Neglect

- In Wisconsin, certain licensed professionals are mandated to report alleged abuse and neglect; however, reports are accepted from any concerned individual.
- Call Sauk County Department of Human Services at 608-355-4200 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to report concerns related to possible abuse or neglect of an adult at risk.
- You may choose to give your name and address. Reporter names are kept confidential. State laws provide protection from liability for anyone who reports abuse in good faith.
- We will listen to your concerns, gather information, and ask questions to clearly understand the situation. Further contact with you, may or may not be allowed during or after the investigation.

Reporting Abuse or Neglect Occurring in a Health Care Facility:

- Call the Division of Quality Assurance at 608-266-8481.
- For informal intervention regarding quality of care issues, contact the Ombudsman Program at 1-800-815-0015.

When you receive any type of services you have rights under Wis. Stat. § 51.61 and DHS 94.
A copy of the grievance process is available upon request.



What Happens After the Report

- A social worker will respond to the report, determine the safety of the situation, and decide what response is necessary. Options and services will be discussed with the consumer at that time.
- Service referrals may include options for health care, aging programs (including transportation, nutrition and benefit counseling), domestic violence/sexual assault services (safety planning, counseling, and support groups), and criminal justice intervention.
- Reports and information given to APS agencies are confidential by law. In order for APS to interact and discuss the referral, the social worker must have a signed release.
- Wisconsin's elder abuse laws state that competent adults have the right to decide where and how they live and whether or not they want intervention in their lives. They can refuse an investigation and any recommended services regardless of opinions from professionals, family, friends, or neighbors.

We cannot give legal advice.





Department of Human Services

Sauk County 505 Broadway Street PO Box 29 Baraboo, WI 53913

SAUK COUNTY

General: 608-355-4200

Crisis Line: 1-800-533-5692



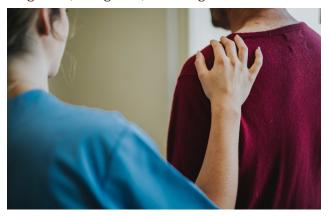
Who we Are:

Adult Protective Services (APS) social workers advocate for adults at risk, and provide intervention and support to Sauk County residents. For adults found to be legally incompetent and a danger to themselves or others, the social workers coordinate guardianship/protective placement and services.

Who we Serve:

Adults at risk are individuals age 18-59 with a physical or mental condition that impairs the ability to care for their needs.

Elder adults at risk are individuals age 60 or older, who have experienced or is at risk of abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or financial exploitation. Adults at risk may suffer abuse from friends, neighbors, caregivers, or strangers.



What is Abuse and Neglect:

Abuse refers to intentional or neglectful acts by a caregiver or "trusted" individual that lead to, or may lead to, harm of a vulnerable adult.



Community Resources:

Sauk County Crisis Line (Call weekends and evenings 24 hours)	1-800-533-5692
Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of Baraboo	608-355-3289
Alzheimer's Association	1-800-272-3900
Capital Consortium (BadgerCare, Food Share)	1-888-794-5556
Energy Assistance	608-356-8887
Hope House	1-800-584-6790
Tenant Resource Center	608-257-0006 1-877-238-7368
Heroin and Opioid Help	608-402-4312

Signs of Abuse or Neglect:

Physical:

- Unexplained bruising, welt marks, cuts, puncture wounds, bites.
- Burns, scalding, sprains, dislocations, fractures.
- Repeated hospital admissions.

Behavioral:

- Agitation, anxiety, withdrawal, isolation.
- Confusion, contradictory statements.
- Fear, depression, anger, resignation.
- Disorientation, wandering.
- Hesitation to talk openly or non-responsiveness.

Financial:

- Sudden changes in bank account activity; additional names on bank signature card.
- Unauthorized withdrawal of funds, forged signatures on checks and other documents.
- Change in power of attorney, house title, or wills when an adult is incapable of decisions.
- Numerous unpaid bills when someone else is in charge of finances.
- Inappropriate exchange of property or financial assets for caregiver's personal gain.
- Threats, enticement or other manipulation to exploit an adult at risk.
- Online or telephone financial scams.

Neglect/Self-Neglect:

- Dehydration or malnutrition, noticeable weight loss.
- Poor hygiene, housekeeping or hoarding.
- Bizarre, inappropriate behavior.
- Incontinence that has not been assessed.
- Increased substance use, mismanagement of medications, or other serious unmet medical needs.