



Adult Protection Program

What is the Adult Protection Program?

In 1980, the Minnesota legislature passed [MS 626.577](#) which declares that the **public policy of this state is to protect adults** who, because of physical or mental disability or dependency on institutional services, are particularly vulnerable to maltreatment; to assist in providing safe environments for vulnerable adults; and to provide safe institutional or residential services, community-based services, or living environments for vulnerable adults who have been maltreated.

This legislation was implemented at the Department of Human Services (DHS) in 1981 with the creation of the Adult Protective Services (APS) Unit. The APS unit provides consultation and training to County AP staff regarding their responsibilities under Minnesota Statute ([626.557](#), [626.5571](#), [626.5572](#)) and Minnesota Rule ([9555.7100-7700](#)). They also provide additional consultation to families, providers, and other stakeholders around Vulnerable Adult (VA) issues.

In 1995, [MS 626.557](#) subd. 9 established the requirement for a statewide **Common Entry Point (CEP)** designation and subd. 12 specified the data management process. A CEP is the county unit responsible for receiving oral reports of suspected maltreatment twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week. It is designated by each county board.

Oral reports of suspected maltreatment are made to the CEP in the county in which the abuse occurred. If you do not know the county's phone number you should call the Senior Linkage Line at 1-800-333-2433

Who is a Vulnerable Adult?

A *Categorical* “vulnerable adult” any person, 18 years of age and older, who is a resident of patient of a facility such as a hospital, group home, nursing home, day service facility, day activity center, adult foster care home, or a person who receives services from and agency licensed/certified by MDHS or MDH, such as a home care agency or personal care service.

A *Functional* “vulnerable adult” also includes a person, regardless of where they live or what type of services they receive, possesses a physical or mental infirmity or other physical, mental or emotional dysfunction that impairs the individual’s ability to provide adequately for their own care without assistance **AND** because of the dysfunction or infirmity and the need for care or services, the individual has an impaired ability to protect themselves from maltreatment.

Who are the Lead Agencies responsible for Investigations of Maltreatment?

- MN Department of Health- Office of Health Facility Complaints
- DHS Licensing division
- County Adult Protection

Minnesota’s Current Adult Protection System

- **CEP response:** Each County must designate a CEP - available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. ([MS626.557 9b](#))
- **Current staffing for County Adult Protection units and CEP:** Varies from less than .25 FTE in smallest counties to 14 FTE in larger counties
- **Training required:** 8 hours per year ([MS626.557 sub 9e](#)) for Lead Agency Investigators.
 - ❖ Initial training to be completed within twelve months of hire
 - ❖ CEP staff to have access to quarterly training delivered statewide
- **DHS Adult Protection unit:** 2 full time employees provide policy, intra and inter agency coordination, consultation to agencies and citizens, training and management of data system.
- **Current and future protective services resources needed:** The rapidly expanding growth in the elderly population in the state and the increased reliance on community based services will require additional protective services staff at the local level.