

# Abuse Hurts at Any Age

Elder Abuse is a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring in any relationship where there is an expectation of trust that causes harm or distress to an older person.



**Elder Abuse**  
Institute of Maine

## MANDATORY REPORTING:

Maine law (**22 MRSA §3477-3479-A**) requires that if any of the following individuals suspects that an adult has been abused, neglected or exploited, and there is reasonable cause to suspect that the adult is incapacitated or dependent, then that individual shall immediately report to the Department of Health and Human Services, Adult Protective Services.

To make a report or for more information, call toll-free (24 hours): **1-800-624-8404**

### Examples of individuals who are mandated to report while acting in a professional capacity:

- » Certified Nursing Assistant
- » Licensed Practical Nurse
- » Registered Nurse
- » Unlicensed Assistive Personnel
- » Physician
- » Social Worker

### Others who are mandated to report:

Any other individual who has assumed full, intermittent or occasional responsibility for the care or custody of the adult, whether or not the individual receives compensation.

Persons convicted of failing to report may be fined up to \$500. If the person is a professional, the court or the Department also will report to that person's licensing board or accrediting unit.

### Confidentiality

Adult Protective Services maintains confidentiality of reporters except in very limited circumstance.

### Immunity

Anyone who makes a report in good faith is protected under the law if someone files a suit in a civil court.

For more resources or further detailed information, visit the website of Adult Protective Services go to: [www.maine.gov/dhhs/oes/aps/index.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oes/aps/index.shtml)

For online training regarding Mandated Reporting: [www.maine.gov/dhhs/oes/aps/training/index.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oes/aps/training/index.htm)

For more information regarding the Elder Abuse Institute of Maine, visit our website at [www.eaime.org](http://www.eaime.org)