

AFTER A REPORT IS MADE

The person has the right to accept or decline services.

As an adult, a competent person may refuse an assessment and may refuse all services and interventions. This is called the client's right to self-determination, upon which the Adult Protective Services program is based. No decisions are made about a competent adult without that adult's involvement and consent. Every effort is made to keep the person in his or her home.

Where a client has dementia or another form of cognitive impairment, the Adult Protective Services Program works to assess the situation and to provide services as needed. In some cases, the Adult Protective Services Provider Agency petitions the court for guardianship in order to insure that the client's needs are met. Guardianship and nursing home placement are always the last resort.

The Illinois Department on Aging does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in programs or activities in compliance with appropriate State and Federal statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, call the senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966, 1-888-206-1327 (TTY).



Oak Park Township Senior Services
(Serving Oak Park and River Forest Townships)
130 S. Oak Park Avenue
Oak Park, IL 60302
(708) 383-8060 phone
(708) 383-5168 fax

MISSION

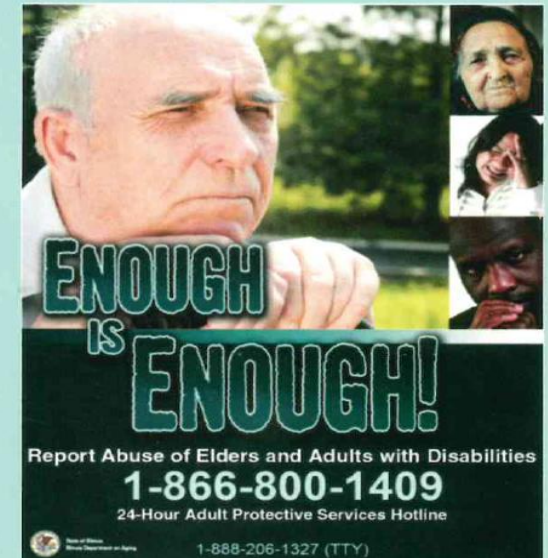
The mission of Oak Park and River Forest Townships Senior Services is to enhance the quality of life for seniors in our communities providing a broad array of supportive services that promote the values of independence, self-esteem, and dignity.

OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIPS



ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

The Adult Protective Services Program works to prevent abuse, neglect and financial exploitation of senior citizens and people with disabilities aged 18-59 living in the community.



WHAT IS ABUSE?

Physical Abuse—causing the infliction of physical pain or injury to a person.

Sexual Abuse—touching, fondling, or any other sexual activity with a person when the person is unable to understand, unwilling to consent, threatened, or physically forced.

Emotional Abuse—verbal assaults, threats of abuse, harassment, or intimidation.

Confinement—restraining or isolating a person other than for medical reasons.

Passive Neglect—the failure by a caregiver to provide the person with necessities of life because of failure to understand the person's needs, lack of awareness of services to help meet needs, or lack of capacity to care for the person.

Willful Deprivation—willfully denying assistance to a person, thereby exposing that person to the risk of harm.

Financial Exploitation—the misuse or withholding of a person's resources to the disadvantage or the person and/or the profit or advantage of another.

Self-Neglect—behavior that threatens a person's health or safety; typically a refusal or failure to provide himself/herself with adequate food, water, clothing, shelter, personal hygiene, medication and safety precautions.



Abuse of the elderly and adults with disabilities is the least recognized form of family violence.

Abuse takes many forms, and in most cases victims are subjected to more than one type of mistreatment. In Illinois, 58% of adult abuse reports allege financial exploitation; approximately 20% allege physical abuse; 38% allege active or passive neglect; and 45% allege emotional abuse.



Anyone can report a case of abuse in good faith. The Adult Protective Services Act provides that people, who in good faith report suspected abuse or cooperate with an investigation, are immune from criminal or civil liability or professional disciplinary action. The identity of the reporter shall not be disclosed except with the written permission of the reporter or by order of a court. Anonymous reports are accepted.

The reporter should be prepared to answer the following question to the best of their ability...

- The alleged victim's name, address, telephone number, sex, age and general condition
- The alleged abuser's name, sex, age, relationship to victim and condition
- The circumstances which lead the reporter to believe that the person is being abused, neglected or financially exploited, with as much specificity as possible
- Whether the alleged victim is in immediate danger, the best time to contact the person, if he/she knows of the report, and if there is any danger to the worker going out to investigate
- Any other relevant information