

### **Adult Protective Services**

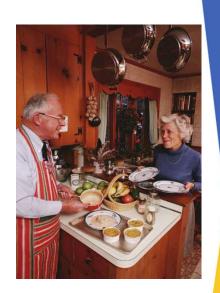
Conservatorships: Vulnerability of Elderly and Dependent Adults

Ventura County Bar Association March 21, 2024



#### **Adult Protective Services**

- Provides assistance for the protection of dependent adults and elders
- Services are mandated by law
- Services are provided at no cost
- There are no income requirements
- APS is a voluntary program



### **Elder and Dependent Adults**

#### **Elder Adult**

A person who is 60 years or older



#### **Dependent Adult**

- 18 to 59 years old; and
- Physical/mental limitations that restrict ability to carry out daily activities or protect their rights

### Types of Abuse

- Physical
- Sexual
- Neglect
- Self-Neglect
- Financial
- Abandonment
- Isolation

- Abduction
- Other treatment resulting in pain or mental suffering (psychological or emotional abuse)



### Signs of Abuse

- Physical bodily injury, cuts, bruises, burns, unexplained injuries, physical restraints, evidence of sexual abuse, deprivation of food/water
- Neglect by Self/Others Inadequate food, dehydration, untreated medical conditions, misuse of medication, unsafe housing
- **Financial** Misuse of funds, unusual activity in bank account, checks cashed by others, suspicious changes in ownership, unpaid bills, missing belongings
- Isolation Preventing receipt of mail, phone calls, visitors, or contact with other concerned persons

#### **Services**

- Information and referral
- Short term case management activities
- Eliminate barriers to necessary services
- Investigate, assess, counsel, and evaluate on behalf of the persons reported to be in danger
- Partners include:

Public Health, District Attorney's Office, Victim Services, Law Enforcement, Public Guardian's Office, Behavioral Health, Tri-Counties Regional Center, Long Term Care Ombudsman, Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST), and the Rapid Response Expert Team (RRET)

# Vulnerabilities May Include:

- Cognitive impairment
- Brain injury
- Severe mental illness
- Developmental delay
- Mobility limitations
- History of:
  - Scam victimization
  - Sexual abuse
  - · Self-neglect
  - Falls
  - Hospitalizations

### Resources Include:

Tri-Counties
Regional Center
(TCRC)

Arc of Ventura County

Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD)

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

Brain Injury Center

Independent Living Resource Center (ILRC)

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

Alzheimer's Association

Area Agency on Aging

## Seeking Conservatorship: The Last Resort

- Often a history of multiple APS referrals
- Increasing detriment to client
- Presented to Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)
- Public Health Nurse visit to client
- · Capacity assessment
  - By client's own physician or at inpatient hospital/facility
  - Referral to Insight Neuropsychology
- Accurint relative search
- Seek appropriate family member, friend, or support person's willingness to seek conservatorship
- Referral to Public Guardian

### **Important Information**

- Reporting party is confidential
- Case information is confidential
- Working with Adults
  - Right to Self-Determination
  - Least restrictive environment
  - Harm reduction

### **Contact Information and Reporting**

- https://www.reporttoaps.org/
- APS Officer of the Day 805-658-4450
- APS 24/7 Hotline 805-654-3200

