



COUNTY of VENTURA

Human Services Agency

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

