

# Reporting Abuse and Neglect Leads to Help.



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If you suspect someone is being  
abused or neglected, call toll-free  
1-855-376-4957

**Some adults are unable  
to protect themselves.  
Others need protection  
from someone else.**



[www.gov.nl.ca/health](http://www.gov.nl.ca/health)



## **What is the *ADULT PROTECTION ACT*?**

It is the law in Newfoundland and Labrador which protects adults who do not understand or appreciate the risk of abuse and neglect.

## **How are abuse and neglect defined in the *ADULT PROTECTION ACT*?**

**Abuse** is the intentional mistreatment of an adult, who is unable to protect him or herself, which may cause serious physical, psychological or emotional harm or substantial damage to his or her belongings. It includes physical, psychological, emotional and financial abuse, intimidation, humiliation and sexual assault.

**Neglect** is the failure to provide care, assistance, guidance or attention to an adult, who is unable to take care of him or herself, which may cause serious physical, psychological or emotional harm or substantial damage to his or her belongings. It includes self-neglect.

## **What should I do if I suspect abuse or neglect?**

If you think somebody is being abused or neglected, it is your legal obligation to report it. **Failure to do so is an offence and can lead to a fine of up to \$10,000 and/or one year imprisonment.** If you suspect somebody is being abused or neglected, call toll-free 1-855-376-4957 or contact your regional health authority or local police. You can report confidentially.

## **What happens if abuse or neglect is reported?**

The situation will be reviewed by a social worker and, if appropriate, a plan will be put in place to protect the adult.

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**For more information regarding the *ADULT PROTECTION ACT*, please visit: [www.gov.nl.ca/health](http://www.gov.nl.ca/health)**