

Adult Abuse



May 2011

Who is a vulnerable adult?

A vulnerable adult is a person aged 18 years or over who may be unable to take care of themselves, or protect themselves from harm or from being exploited.

This may be because they have:

- a mental health problem
- a disability
- a sensory impairment
- are old and frail
- Have some form of illness.

What is adult abuse?

Abuse is mistreatment by any other person or persons that violates a person's human and civil rights. The abuse can vary from treating someone with disrespect in a way which significantly affects the person's quality of life, to causing actual physical suffering.

Abuse can happen anywhere - in a residential or nursing home, a hospital, in the workplace, at a day centre or educational establishment, in supported housing or in the street.

Forms of abuse include:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Psychological or emotional abuse

- Financial abuse
- Neglect
- Discriminatory abuse
- Institutional abuse - The abuse affects more than one person within an organisation and is not addressed by the service's management.

A vulnerable adult may suffer from only one or different types of abuse at the same time.

If you think this is happening to you or someone that you know, don't hesitate to speak to your support worker, they are trained to help you.

Alternatively you can contact

Adult care team - 0845 124 4500 or visit
www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/safeguardingadults

Or

Action on Elder Abuse - 080 8808 8141 or email
enquiries@elderabuse.org.uk

This leaflet is available in various formats, i.e. different languages, braille, audio formats etc. Please contact us for further information.



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Rushden Office

1 Crown Court
Crown Way
Rushden
Northamptonshire
NN10 6BS

t: 0845 603 5399

text: 447797 800062

Rutland Office

Pinewood
1 Cold Overton Road
Oakham
Rutland
LE15 6NT

t: 01572 755465

text: 447797 800062

email: spirehomes@longhurst-group.org.uk

www.spirehomes.org.uk



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