

Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation

If you feel that you, or someone you care for have been abused, neglected, or exploited contact the *Kansas Department for Children and Families* at **1-800-922-5330**. The *Kansas Department for Children and Families* also has services available to protect "vulnerable" adults. This service is called *Adult Protective Services*.

Kansas Department for Children and Families Definitions:

- ✓ **Vulnerable adults** are persons 18 years of age or older who are unable to protect their own interests and who are harmed or threatened with harm through action or inaction by themselves or others. Typically this includes the elderly, physically disabled, mentally ill, and developmentally disabled individuals.
- ✓ **Abuse** Any act or failure to act performed intentionally or recklessly that causes or is likely to cause harm including: infliction of physical or mental injury; sexual abuse; unreasonable use of physical or chemical restraint, isolation or medication; threat or menacing conduct; fiduciary abuse; and omission or deprivation by a caretaker or other person of goods or services which are necessary to avoid physical or mental harm or illness.
- ✓ **Neglect** Failure or omission by one's self, caretaker, or other person to provide goods or services, which are reasonably necessary to ensure safety and well-being and to avoid physical or mental harm or illness
- ✓ **Exploitation** Misappropriation of an adult's property or intentionally taking unfair advantage of an adult's physical or financial resources.
- ✓ **Fiduciary Abuse** A situation in which a person who is a caretaker of, or who stands in a position of trust to an adult, takes, secretes, or appropriates their money or property for any use of purpose not in the due and lawful execution of an adult's trust.

Any vulnerable adult or child is protected from any type of abuse, neglect, or exploitation by the *Kansas Department for Children and Families*.

Staff who work for anyone considered vulnerable who is suspected of abuse, neglect, or exploitation can be investigated by the *Kansas Department for Children and Families*. The names of confirmed perpetrators of abuse, neglect, and exploitation are entered on a central registry for either adults or children that is available to all community service providers, mental health centers, independent living centers, and home health agencies that do background checks for employment purposes. If a criminal act has occurred, the *Kansas Department for Children and Families* is required to immediately notify the appropriate law enforcement agency. **If you suspect any abuse, neglect or exploitation, please call 1-800-922-5330. All reports can be done confidentially.**

Additionally, any occurrence or suspected occurrence of abuse, neglect or exploitation must be reported by any Staff directly to a Director, the TCM, the CDDO if appropriate, and KDADS within 24 hours of the occurrence or suspected occurrence. Reports may be made in person, by telephone, by U.S. Mail or by e-mail.

Helper's Inc. is committed to the prevention and detection of abuse, neglect or exploitation and will keep the lines of communication open to encourage all Staff to report suspected or actual abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Likewise, if any Staff member has any questions or concerns about this Policy, Helper's Inc. encourages the Staff member to consult with his or her direct supervisor, a Director, the TCM or Human Resources.

There will be no retaliation against any Staff member for reporting suspected or actual abuse, neglect, or exploitation, or for participating in the investigation into a report of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. However, any Helper's Inc.'s Staff member that has knowledge of abuse, neglect, or exploitation, or has a reasonable basis to suspect such misconduct, and fails to report the violation, has committed an act of unprofessional conduct and insubordination and may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Our goal at Helpers, Inc. is to be a resource for beneficiaries and their representatives when the need Information and Assistance (I&A). We have internal resources that we share with clients as well as we often direct them to the Kansas "Self-Direction Tool Kit".

