

ABUSE AND NEGLECT



Abuse or neglect can happen to all of us. It doesn't matter what your background, culture or race is. There are things you can do to protect yourself from this.

KNOW WHAT COUNTS AS ABUSE OR NEGLECT:

- Physical abuse: pain or injury caused upon someone
- Sexual abuse: touching, fondling, intercourse or any other sexual act when the person is unfit to understand, opposed, threatened or forced
- Emotional abuse: verbal assault, threats, harassment or intimidation
- Confinement: restraint or seclusion, other than for health reasons
- Passive neglect: a caregiver's failure to give life's needs (food, clothing, shelter, health care)
- Willful deprivation: denying medication, health care, shelter, food or other needed items
- Financial abuse: the misuse or withholding of fiscal support
- Exploitation: the use of assets of an adult with disabilities either by force, deception, fraud or extortion

HAVE A PLAN

Plan for your future. Talk with family, friends and those you trust.

- Name someone you trust to make healthcare and fiscal choices for you if you can no longer make them on your own
- Learn about your choices for long-term care

PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR IDENTITY

- Don't be afraid to run a background check to help you hire for support, home care or other needs. Check with the Department of Public Health to see if they have a past of abuse, neglect or theft
- Being on the National Do Not Call Registry will limit sales calls. Call 888-382-1222 to add your phone number
- Don't sign papers if you don't know what they are for. Talk first with someone you trust
- Stay linked with those you trust! Connect with family, friends, neighbors, faith-based groups or others to help you along the way



KNOW HOW TO REPORT ABUSE OR NEGLECT

Don't be afraid to report abuse or neglect. You have the right to be safe.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, CALL 911 FIRST

If you are the victim of abuse or neglect, tell your Community Care Coordinator right away. You should also tell the State to protect yourself and others from future abuse or neglect.

Incident Involves	Contact
Children (under 18)	State Central Register: 800-25A-BUSE (800-252-2873)
All Adults (as well as disabled), ages 18 through 59; All adults living in an institutional setting; Cases of suicide ideation for members in institutional setting with Developmental Disabilities or Mental Health	Illinois Department of Human Services Office of the Inspector General Hotline 800-368-1463 (voice and TTY)
Disabled Adults ages 18 through 59 living in a community setting; Older Adults (aged 60 or older) in any residence type	Adult Protective Services Hotline 866-800-1409 800-206-1327
All Adults ages 18 through 59 living in a community setting	Local Police Department
Nursing Facilities Resident	Department of Public Health's Registry Hotline 800-252-4343
Supportive Living Facilities Resident	Department of Healthcare and Family Services' SLF Complaint Hotline 800-226-0768

CALL MEMBER SERVICES AT 866-606-3700 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

MeridianHealth complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

Español (Spanish): ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 866-606-3700 (TTY: 711).

Polski (Polish): UWAGA: Jeżeli mówisz po polsku, możesz skorzystać z bezpłatnej pomocy językowej. Zadzwoń pod numer 866-606-3700 (TTY: 711).

