

Some Ways to Protect Yourself

- Take steps to relieve stress and encourage well-being
- Practice self care by getting rest, staying hydrated and eating healthy
- Talk with a therapist if you are experiencing sadness or depression
- Request help with daily activities from friends, relatives, or local care agencies
- Find a support group of people you trust
- Schedule calls and visits from family and friends to prevent isolation
- Be an advocate for yourself by speaking up if you have a need or concern



How you can help

If you suspect an older adult or an adult with disabilities is being neglected, call our Centralized Intake Unit at 216-420-6700, or report it via our online referral portal at hhs.cuyahogacounty.gov/dsas.

For more information

Adult Protective Services
Cuyahoga County
Division of Senior and Adult Services
216-420-6700
hhs.cuyahogacounty.gov/dsas

Neglect & Self-Neglect

We all deserve care and support.



Cuyahoga County
Division of Senior and Adult Services
Adult Protective Services



Division of Senior and Adult Services
Adult Protective Services
13815 Kinsman Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44120
216-420-6700
hhs.cuyahogacounty.gov/dsas

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What is Neglect?

Neglect is a form of mistreatment by individuals resulting from inadequate attention, especially through carelessness or disregard for the needs of others. Neglect includes failures by individuals to support the physical, emotional and social needs of adults dependent on others for their primary care.



Neglect is Abuse

Neglect is considered a form of elder abuse under Ohio law. Cuyahoga County's Adult Protective Services unit is responsible for investigating allegations of abuse of adults ages 60 and over. Adults with disabilities ages 18-59 qualify for the same protections.

Types of Neglect

- **Physical neglect:** includes failing to attend to a person's medical, hygienic, nutrition and dietary needs, such as dispensing medications, changing bandages, bathing, grooming, dressing, or providing ample food to maintain health.
- **Emotional neglect:** includes causing emotional pain, distress or anguish by ignoring, belittling or infantilizing the needs of adults. This includes neglecting or discounting their emotional well being, as well as actions to isolate adults from visits or contact by family and friends.
- **Abandonment:** involves deserting the caregiving needs of an individual while neglecting to arrange sufficient care and support for the duration of the absence.
- **Isolation:** involves restricting visits from family and friends or preventing contact via telephone or mail correspondence.
- **Financial neglect:** involves disregarding a person's financial obligations such as failing to pay rent or mortgage, medical insurance or invoices, utility and garbage bills, property taxes and assessments.
- **Self-neglect:** involves seniors or adults with disabilities who fail to meet their own essential physical, psychological or social needs, which threatens their health, safety and well-being. This includes failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter and health care for one's own needs.

“We all deserve care and support.”

No one should live without their basic needs fulfilled. Preventing abuse of older adults and those with disabilities in Cuyahoga County is everyone's business. Do you know someone who is being neglected or self-neglecting? Please call Adult Protective Services at 216-420-6700.

Signs and Symptoms

- Inability to meet essential physical, psychological or social needs which threatens health, safety or well-being
- Disappearing from contact with neighbors, friends or family
- Appearing hungry, malnourished, or with a sudden weight loss
- Appearing disheveled, dirty or inappropriately attired for the weather
- Living in squalor or hazardous situations such as hoarding or lack of utilities
- Failing to take medications or treat physical conditions such as bedsores
- Caregiver is not present, arrives late or disappears without notice

