



**Mandatory Reporting**  
**Child and Dependent Adult Abuse**  
**Handout**

**CHILD AND DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE  
HANDOUT #1**

	<b>CHILD</b>	<b>DEPENDENT ADULT</b>
Definition of Person	All children up to 18 years of age	A person age 18 or older who is unable to protect their own interests or unable to adequately perform or obtain services needed to meet essential human needs as a result of a physical or mental condition which requires assistance from another. (Includes elderly, mentally ill, mentally retarded, developmentally disabled.)
Definition of Abuse	<p>Acts or omissions of caregiver, where child suffers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Physical abuse: non-accidental physical injury</li> <li>2. Mental injury: injury to intellectual or psychological capacity</li> <li>3. Sexual abuse: commission of sexual abuse with or to a child</li> <li>4. Denial of critical care: failure to provide food, shelter and other necessary care</li> <li>5. Prostitution: allowing, permitting or encouraging child to engage in sexual acts</li> <li>6. Presence of illegal drugs: illegal drugs in child's body</li> <li>7. Manufacture or possession of a dangerous substance in the presence of a child.</li> <li>8. Bestiality: commission of a sex act with an animal in presence of child by person who resides in home with the child</li> <li>9. Cohabiting with a registered sex offender: a caretaker who knowingly cohabits with a person who is a registered sex offender or with a person who is required to register</li> </ol>	<p>Acts or omissions of caretaker, where dependent adult suffers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Physical injury or unreasonable confinement/unreasonable punishment</li> <li>2. Commission of a sexual offense to or with a dependent adult</li> <li>3. Exploitation of physical or financial resources</li> <li>4. Deprivation of minimum of food, shelter, clothing, supervision of physical and mental health care or other necessary care. (This may be result of omission of acts of dependent adult himself/herself.</li> <li>5. Sexual exploitation of a resident of a healthcare facility</li> </ol>

	<b>CHILD</b>	<b>DEPENDENT ADULT</b>
	commits child abuse	
Mandatory Reporters	Every health practitioner who examines, attends, counsels or treats a child (licensed physicians, surgeons, osteopaths, dentists, optometrists, podiatrists, residents or interns, PAs, nurses, basic and advanced EMS personnel, all social workers (private and public), psychologists, school employees, day care employees, staff of all health care facilities, staff of mental health centers, peace officers.	Every health practitioner who examines, attends, counsels, or treats a dependent adult (licensed physicians, surgeons, osteopaths, dentists, optometrists, residents or interns, PAs, nurses, basic and advanced EMS personnel, all social worker (private and public), psychologists, staff of mental health centers, staff of hospitals, staff of all health care facilities, peace officers, in home homemaker and health aides, any outreach person with regular contact with dependent adults.
Are agencies allowed to have a “designated agent” who makes the report for the agency?	No - mandatory reporters are responsible for making report. (Although the mandatory reporter may consult with a social worker at the health care facility)	Yes - person in charge of facility. Recommend that health care facilities (RCF, ICF, SNF) also report as individuals.
Reporting Process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Oral report immediately - Central Registry 1-800-362-2178 DHS local office</li> <li>2. Written report within 48 hours</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Oral report immediately - Central Registry 1-800-362-2178 DHS local office. If in a health care facility, Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (515-281-4077)</li> <li>2. Written report within 48 hours</li> </ol>
Must reporter be able to prove the case?	No - reasonable belief	No - reasonable belief
Penalties for not reporting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Simple misdemeanor</li> <li>2. May be civilly liable for damages</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Simple misdemeanor</li> <li>2. May be civilly liable for damages</li> </ol>
Immunity from liability if report is made	If report is made in “good faith” there is no liability. Reporter cannot be discharged, suspended, or disciplined by employer.	If report is made in “good faith” there is no liability. Reporter cannot be discharged, suspended, or disciplined by employer.
Report determination	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Founded – preponderance of evidence: placed on Central Registry</li> <li>2. Confirmed – preponderance of evidence abuse occurred; but abuse minor and not placed on</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Founded – preponderance of evidence; placed on Central Registry</li> <li>2. Confirmed, not registered – preponderance of evidence abuse occurred; but abuse minor and not placed on</li> </ol>

	<b>CHILD</b>	<b>DEPENDENT ADULT</b>
	3. Central Registry Not confirmed – based on evidence available abuse did not occur	3. Central Registry Unfounded – based on evidence available abuse did not occur

## CHILD ABUSE

### HANDOUT #2

#### I. Dynamics of abuse

##### A. Parent:

1. Often abused as child
2. Emotionally immature as adult
3. Unrealistic expectations of child
4. Low self-esteem
5. Isolated
6. Marries emotionally nonsupporting spouse
7. High levels of stress

##### B. Child:

1. Singled out as different
2. Reminds parent of disliked characteristic
3. Intolerable at certain stages of development

#### II. Physical abuse - any nonaccidental physical injury, or injury which is at variance with the history given relating to the injury suffered by a child as a result of the acts or omissions of a person responsible for the care of the child.

##### A. Physical indicators of abuse:

1. Unexplained bruises and/or welts
2. Unexplained burns
3. Unexplained fractures
4. Head injuries
5. Unexplained lacerations or abrasions
6. Abdominal injuries
7. Human bite marks
8. Hyperemia

##### B. Behavioral indicators of abuse:

1. Wary of physical contact with adults
2. Apprehension when other children cry
3. Behavioral extremes
4. Frightened of parents/afraid to go home
5. Conflicting feelings
6. Reports of injury by parent

#### III. Mental injury - mental injury to child's intellectual or psychological capacity as evidenced by observable and substantial impairment in the child's ability to function.

- A. Behavioral indicators
  - 1. Lack of emotional control
  - 2. Depression
  - 3. Hysteria

4. Fantasy
  5. Infantile behavior
  6. Conduct disorders
  7. Behavior extremes
  8. Suicide attempts
  9. Drug/alcohol usage
  10. Running away
  11. Development and/or language delays
- B. Examples of mental injury
1. Ignoring the child, failing to provide necessary stimulation, validation and responsiveness
  2. Rejecting the child's value, needs, and request for adult validation and nurturance
  3. Isolating the child
  4. Terrorizing the child with verbal assaults, creating climate of fear, hostility and anxiety
  5. Corrupting the child by encouraging and reinforcing destructive, antisocial behavior
  6. Verbally assaulting the child
  7. Over pressuring the child
- IV. Sexual abuse - commission of any sexual offense pursuant to Chapter 709, section 726.2 of the Iowa Code as a result of acts or omissions of person responsible for care of child.
- A. Physical indicators
1. Genital or anal bruising
  2. Vaginal or anal bleeding
  3. Swelling or redness of the cervix, vulva, perineum
  4. Semen
  5. Venereal disease
  6. Difficulty walking or sitting
  7. Stained, torn, bloody underclothing
  8. Pregnancy
- B. Behavioral indicators
1. Regression
  2. Aggression or delinquency
  3. Poor peer relationships, poor self-esteem
  4. Drug usage
  5. Running away, suicide attempt
  6. Phobias
  7. Pseudo mature behaviors

- V. Denial of critical care - the failure on the part of the person responsible for the child to provide for the adequate food, shelter, clothing or other care necessary for the child's health and welfare when financially able to do so or when offered financial or other reasonable means to do so. A pattern of care by the person responsible for the care of the child in which the child's basic needs are denied or ignored to such an extent that there is imminent or potential danger of the child suffering injury or death; or there is a denial of a failure to provide the mental health care necessary to adequately treat a child's serious social maladjustment; or there is a gross failure of the person responsible for the care of the child to meet the emotional needs of the child necessary for normal development. (Note: legitimate religious beliefs precluding medical treatment is not child abuse.)
- A. Lack of adequate food
    - 1. Lack of adequate food
    - 2. Lack of properly prepared and stored food
    - 3. Failure to provide medically prescribed diets
    - 4. Deliberately withholding food from child
  
  - B. Lack of adequate clothing
    - 1. Inappropriate clothing for climate
    - 2. Unclean clothing endangering health
  
  - C. Lack of adequate shelter
    - 1. Does not meet minimum housing code standards
    - 2. "Dirty" house - health hazard
    - 3. Conditions which are physical safety hazards
    - 4. No home
  
  - D. Lack of other care
    - 1. Abandonment
    - 2. Lack of supervision
    - 3. Lack of medical care
    - 4. Failure to provide mental health care
    - 5. Failure to meet child's emotional needs
  
  - E. Indicators
    - 1. Stealing, delinquency
    - 2. Erratic school attendance
    - 3. Drug and alcohol abuse
    - 4. Poor hygiene
    - 5. Inappropriate clothing
    - 6. Behavior disorders
    - 7. Suicide attempts, drug or alcohol usage
    - 8. Running away

- VI. Child prostitution - the acts or omissions of a person responsible for the care of a child which allow, permit, or encourage the child to engage in acts prohibited pursuant to Section 725.1. Refers to a person under the age of 18 years.
  - A. Detention in a brothel
  - B. Sexual exploitation of a child
  - C. Prostitution
  
- VII. Presence of illegal drugs - an illegal drug present in a child's body as a direct and foreseeable consequence of the acts or omissions of the person responsible for the care of the child.
  - A. Cocaine, heroin, amphetamine, methamphetamine
  - B. Other illegal drugs (including marijuana)
  - C. Combinations or derivatives of illegal drugs that were not prescribed by a health practitioner
  
- VIII. Manufacturing or possession of a dangerous substance by caretaker.
  - A. In the presence of a child, in a child's home or motor vehicle
  - B. Amphetamine or methamphetamine, their salts, isomers, or salts of isomers
  - C. Chemicals or combination of chemicals that pose risk of explosion, fire, etc.
  - D. Caretaker knowingly allows manufacture of a dangerous substance by another person in presence of child
  
- IX. Bestiality in the presence of a minor.
  - A. Commission of a sex act with an animal by a person who resides in home with child
  - B. Result of acts or omissions of person responsible for care of child
  
- X. Cohabiting with a registered sex offender.
  - A. Caretaker who knowingly cohabits with a person who is a registered sex offender or with a person who is required to register commits child abuse
  - B. Exception – sex offender is caretaker's spouse, sex offender is parent of alleged victim child, sex offender is minor child of caretaker

## DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE

### HANDOUT #3

- I. Dynamics of abuse
  - A. Caretaker
    - 1. Abused as child
    - 2. Lifestyle changed
    - 3. Inability to provide care adequately
    - 4. New role
    - 5. Financial burden
    - 6. Little leisure time
  - B. Dependent adult
    - 1. Was child abuser
    - 2. Sudden rise in dependency
    - 3. Adopts role of child
    - 4. Isolated
  - C. Both caretaker and dependent adult
    - 1. Physical or mental illness
    - 2. Strike out verbally or physically - low tolerance to frustration
    - 3. Feelings of shame, guilt, helplessness, hopelessness
    - 4. Rejection of help from others
    - 5. Difficult and uncooperative personalities
  
- II. Physical abuse - physical injury to, unreasonable confinement or unreasonable punishment of a dependent adult
  - A. Physical indicators
    - 1. Unexplained cuts, lacerations, puncture wounds
    - 2. Unexplained bruises, welts
    - 3. Dehydration/malnourishment
    - 4. Unexplained burns
    - 5. Head injuries
    - 6. Soiled clothing or bedding
  - B. Behavioral indicators
    - 1. Fear
    - 2. Reluctant
    - 3. Withdrawn, depressed
    - 4. Resignation
    - 5. Ambivalence/contradictory statements
    - 6. Confusion/disorientation
    - 7. Agitation/anxiety/denial/anger
    - 8. Longing for death, suicidal

- III. Sexual abuse - commission of sexual offense under Chapter 709, Section 726.2 of Iowa Code with or against a dependent adult.
  - A. Physical indicators
    - 1. Genital or anal bleeding
    - 2. Genital or anal swelling
    - 3. Redness of cervix, vulva, or perineum
    - 4. Semen
    - 5. Venereal disease
    - 6. Bruises
  
- IV. Exploitation of financial or physical resources - the act or process of taking unfair advantage of a dependent adult or the adult's physical or financial resources of one's own personal or pecuniary profit by the use of undue influence, harassment, duress, deception, false representation, or false pretenses
  - A. Indicators
    - 1. Unusual activity in bank account
    - 2. Recent will changes
    - 3. Recent power-of-attorney
    - 4. Refusal to pay bills by conservator
    - 5. Missing personal belongings
    - 6. Forged signatures
    - 7. Isolation from old friends or relatives
  
- V. Denial of critical care - of minimum food, shelter, clothing, supervision, physical and mental health care, and other care necessary to maintain a dependent adult's life or health
  - A. Types of denial of critical care
    - 1. Denial of or failure to provide adequate food
    - 2. Denial of or failure to provide adequate shelter
    - 3. Denial of or failure to provide adequate clothing
    - 4. Denial of or failure to provide adequate medical care
    - 5. Denial of or failure to provide adequate mental health care
    - 6. Denial of or failure to meet emotional needs necessary for normal functioning
    - 7. Denial or failure to provide proper supervision
    - 8. Denial or failure to provide adequate physical care
  - B. Indicators
    - 1. Contaminated/spoiled food
    - 2. Lack of adequate food
    - 3. Inappropriate/adequate clothing
    - 4. Lack of heat
    - 5. Lack of supervision
    - 6. Unsafe home environment
    - 7. Failure to insure physical and mental health care
    - 8. Failure to insure against health hazards

- VI. Sexual exploitation – resident of healthcare facility sexually exploited by caretaker providing services to or employed by the healthcare facility, whether within the healthcare facility or at a location outside of the facility.
  - A. Any consensual or nonconsensual conduct to arouse or satisfy sexual desire of caretaker
  - B. Kissing, touching clothed or unclothed body parts, or sexual act
  - C. **Not** touching necessary for examination, treatment, or care
  
- VII. Incidences which are not abuse
  - A. Domestic abuse
  - B. Refusing medical treatment due to religious convictions
  - C. Withholding or withdrawing health care to terminally ill adult
  - D. Prison incarceration
  - E. Lack of means or access to means for providing care



**HANDOUT #4**

Iowa Department of Human Services

**REPORT OF SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE**

This form may be used as the written report which the law requires all mandated reporters to file with the Department of Human Services following an oral report of suspected child abuse. If your agency has a report form or letter format which includes all of the information requested on this form, you may use the agency format in place of this form.

Fill in as much information under each category as is known. Submit the completed form to the local office of the Department of Human Services within 48 hours of oral report.

FAMILY INFORMATION		
Name of child	Age	Date of birth
Address		
Phone	School	Grade level
Name of parent or guardian		Phone (if different from child's)
Address (if different from child's)		
OTHER CHILDREN IN THE HOME		
NAME	BIRTH DATE	CONDITION
INFORMATION ABOUT SUSPECTED ABUSE		
<p>In this section, indicate the date of suspected abuse; the nature, extent and cause of the suspected abuse; the persons thought to be responsible for the suspected abuse; evidence of previous abuse; and other pertinent information needed to conduct the assessment. Use the back of this form if necessary to complete the information requested above and to identify individuals who have been informed of the child abuse report, such as building administrator, supervisor, etc.</p>		
REPORTER INFORMATION		
Name and title or position		
Office address		
Phone	Relationship to child	
Names of other mandatory reporters who have knowledge of the abuse		
Signature of reporter		Date

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**HANDOUT #5**

Iowa Department of Human Services

**SUSPECTED DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE REPORT**

This form may be used as the written report that mandatory reporters file with the Department of Human Services following an oral report of suspected dependent adult abuse. See page 2 for instructions.

There are three criteria for a dependent adult abuse referral:

- (1) A dependent adult.      (2) Abuse as defined in Iowa Code 235B.      (3) A caretaker, if applicable.

**REPORT INFORMATION**

Name of Dependent	Phone (    )	Birth Date	
Street	City	State	Zip Code

1. Person is a dependent adult because:

2. Type of abuse noted:

<input type="checkbox"/> Physical injury	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial exploitation	<input type="checkbox"/> Denial of care by dependent adult him/herself
<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual offense	<input type="checkbox"/> Unreasonable punishment	<input type="checkbox"/> Denial of care by caretaker
		<input type="checkbox"/> Unreasonable confinement

Information about suspected abuse: (Incidents, previous abuse, person responsible for abuse, name and address of guardian, etc.)

3. Caretaker: (Omit if deprivation is by the dependent adult.)

Name	Phone (    )	
Street	City	State    Zip Code

Person is a caretaker because:

**REPORTER INFORMATION**

Name	Position	Relationship to Adult
Office Address		Phone (    )

Names of other mandatory reporters who have knowledge of the abuse

Signature of Reporter	Date
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