

# Identifying Adult Abuse

Abuse is the infliction of injury, sexual abuse, unreasonable confinement, intimidation, or punishment that results in physical pain or injury, including mental injury. (KRS 209.020(8)).



## RECOGNIZE COMMON WARNING SIGNS

***Signs that may indicate abuse is occurring include:***

- Frequent injuries such as bruises, burns, and broken bones, especially when the explanation of the injury seems unrealistic
- Dirtiness, poor nutrition, or dehydration
- Poor living conditions
- Missing daily living aids (glasses, walker, and medications)
- Multiple bruises in various stages of healing, particularly bruises on inner arms or thighs
- Chronic or acute physical illness
- Pain from being touched
- Loss of bowel and bladder control
- Appears frightened or withdrawn
- Never leaves the house; never allowed visitors
- Confined to a chair or bed
- Locked in a room or tied up
- Clothes that are not appropriate for the weather
- Evidence of sexually transmitted disease

## TO AVOID POTENTIAL ABUSE, CONSIDER DOING THE FOLLOWING

- Check-in on adults who may have few friends and family members.
- Provide over-burdened caregivers with support such as help from friends, family, or local relief care groups; adult day care programs; counseling; and outlets intended to promote emotional well-being.
- Empower adults through resources and programs to reduce the harmful effects of biases and stereotypes of disabled adults.



YOU can make a difference.  
Report adult abuse, neglect and exploitation

**1-877-597-2331**

<https://prd.webapps.chfs.ky.gov/ReportAbuse>  
(for non-emergency referrals)

