

Identifying Neglect

Neglect is a situation in which an adult is unable to perform or obtain for himself or herself the goods or services that are necessary to maintain his or her health or welfare or the deprivation of services by a caretaker that are necessary to maintain the health and welfare of an adult. (KRS 209.020(16)).



RECOGNIZE COMMON WARNING SIGNS

Signs that may indicate neglect is occurring include:

- Obvious malnutrition and/or dehydration
- Dirty, uncombed hair and offensive body odor
- Torn and dirty clothes that are not appropriate for the weather
- Lack of glasses, dentures or hearing aids
- Apparent weight loss
- Bedsores
- Fear or anxiety
- Exterior or interior of the home in poor repair
- Filthy living environment, strong odors
- Little or no food in the refrigerator, or decayed and moldy food
- Many pets or animals who appear neglected
- Garbage or litter; excessive alcohol containers
- Isolated or not responsive

TO AVOID POTENTIAL NEGLECT, 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.
- Encourage and assist persons (either caregivers or adults) having problems with drug or alcohol misuse with getting help.



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)

TEAM
KENTUCKY