



## Staying Connected: Adult Maltreatment Prevention & Awareness News

April 2023

Volume 3, No. 10

### THIS IS ME...

#### **Disasters and Emergencies | Ready.gov** (Individuals with Disabilities | Ready.gov) (Older Adults | Ready.gov)

***Create a support network of people who can help you in a disaster.***

*Keep a list of important contacts in a watertight container in your emergency kit*

***Let your support network know where your emergency supplies are located.***  
*Have a spare key with a trusted person.*

***Plan ahead for transportation during an evacuation or need to attend appointments.***

*Contact your local providers to learn about their emergency plan.*

***Talk with local emergency management.***

*Some agencies maintain voluntary registries for people with additional needs to receive targeted assistance in emergencies.*

The old adage is that April showers bring May flowers. Unfortunately those showers can also accompany extremely damaging storms.

The damage we see from these storms varies widely across the state. In the western part there tends to be more tornadoes, while the eastern part experiences heavy rains and flooding. These differences lead each community to tailor their preparations to ensure that their needs are met.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) understands that not all communities are going to experience the same types of emergencies. This led them to look in to how to build a national resilience guidance to help communities engage more effectively with stakeholders to prepare.

We know that resilience is the ability to prepare for threats and hazards, adapt to changing conditions, and withstand and recover rapidly from disruptions.

It is important to have resilient communities. This means that we have to have resilient environments, resilient systems, and resilient people. As a community we will all have to work together to build in this resiliency.

One of the first steps is to identify potential shocks and stressors.

Shocks are acute events that are typically short in duration and cause a disruption in normal life. This can be a natural disaster or a sudden closure of a large employer in the community.

“Stressors are chronic, longer-term conditions that weaken a community or system over time and can cause disruption to community or system functions and wellbeing ([National Resilience Guidance: Background and Key Concepts](#)

[fema.gov](#)).” Examples of stressors may include aging infrastructure, affordable housing, and declining industries.

It is important to remember that shocks and stressors are intertwined and can lead to a ripple effect in the other. For instance, a tornado destroys part of the town. Although this usually has a short term effect, there is the potential that the shock to the system could lead to businesses relocating out of the community and introducing a stressor.

Another piece of our community resilience is to be collaborative. These collaborations must include everyone in our community. This means that an effort needs to be made to include groups that may not typically participate in discussions (especially those that may be underserved or marginalized).

Measuring just process and activities will not help you reach the goal of resilience. The establishment of metrics for your goals should be focused on the outcomes that are sought and how the activities and process are helping reach these outcomes.

As you start to discuss resiliency in your community, some of your focus should be on making it sustainable. Consider the longer-term implications of your resiliency goals. Is the current plan going to use up all of your capital in five years, ten years, or fifty years? Remember that your capital includes the money invested, the people involved, and the environment.

Your community is a complex system of people, traditions, industries, environment and other factors. Implementing a plan for resilience is not easy, but the benefits are immense. Taking the time to have goal for resilience will have benefits for more than just those actively participating.



# ***This is Us***

**Adult Protective Services,  
the Elder Abuse Committee &  
Local Coordinating Councils  
on Elder Abuse**

**Cordially Inviting You**

**To Show Your Support  
to End Elder Abuse**

**In honor of World Elder Abuse  
Awareness Day**

**In the Capitol Rotunda  
On June 15th, 2023  
10:00—11:30am EDT**

**TEAM**  
**KENTUCKY**

CABINET FOR HEALTH  
AND FAMILY SERVICES



## This is me...

*LaDonna Koebel*  
*Executive Director,*  
*Office of Senior Protection, OAG*

I am the Executive Director of the Office of Senior Protection within the Attorney General's Office. Our office provides education, awareness and community outreach regarding fraud, scams, and identity theft. We also assist victims of all ages with next steps when they have encountered a scam.

While we assist people of all ages, our office focuses a lot of attention on assisting and educating seniors about scams and fraud. Older Kentuckians suffer the greatest financial losses to scams because they have a nest egg, retirement, or savings. In fact, Kentucky seniors have lost over \$30 million to fraud since the onset of the pandemic in 2020. The financial and emotional impact on seniors can be particularly devastating and therefore we conduct free speaking engagements across the Commonwealth to raise awareness on spotting and avoiding scams.

Seniors are one of our most vulnerable populations. I'm passionate about educating and speaking to seniors in a caring, compassionate, and respectful manner, just as I would have spoken to my mom with dementia in her later years. Anyone can experience a scam due to their sophistication, but many victims do not report scams due to embarrassment or fear. We always encourage people to report their experiences because it helps to educate the public and we may be able to assist with steps to prevent further loss.

The best way to educate the community is having citizen interaction through speaking engagements and answering questions about the many types of scams used to steal personal information or convince a victim to pay. I take pride in the work our team does to help seniors.

After a day of work, I love to get outside for walks and spend time gardening. These activities help me to relieve stress and relax.

If you or someone you know has encountered a scam, I encourage you to report it to [ag.ky.gov/scams](http://ag.ky.gov/scams).

## Defining Words! How do we communicate?

What does it mean when APS states that they are going to collect records during an investigation of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

KRS 209.020 states that records means "the medical, mental, health, and financial records of the adult that are in the possession of any hospital, firm, corporation, or other facility, if necessary to complete the investigation."

KRS 209.020 also states that these records shall not be disclosed for any purpose other than the purpose for which they were obtained.

KRS 209.030 states that any "representative of the cabinet actively involved in the conduct of an abuse, neglect, or exploitation investigation shall also be allowed access to records."

This means that an APS worker that is conducting an investigation will be able to access records that are necessary to assess the situation and offer the appropriate protective services.

Section 164.512 of the Code of Federal Regulations for the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) authorizes covered entities to disclose information that is required by law and is limited to the relevant requirements of the law. This includes the reporting of abuse or neglect to a government authority or protective services agency.

An APS worker only has the legal authority to request records for the adult that is identified as the alleged victim of abuse, neglect or exploitation.

This may pose a problem during some exploitation investigations. There are occasions when the alleged perpetrator is the only one listed on the financial accounts. In this case, the alleged perpetrator will be asked to provide the records. If the alleged perpetrator denies access, law enforcement may be involved to seek further action through a criminal investigation.



Are Adverse Childhood Experiences Associated With Greater Risk of Elder Abuse Victimization

[Click Here](#)

Elder Justice Policy Highlights  
Sept 2022—Feb 2023

[Click Here](#)

Emergency Preparedness for Older Adults: Red Cross

[Click Here](#)

Georgia's Crimes Against The Disabled and Elderly Task Force (CADE)

[Click Here](#)

## Why do eggs like April Fools' Day?

**"They love practical yolks."**



April 27th, 2023 12:30pm (EST)  
Working with Chronic Victims of International Fraud

[Register Here](#)

On-Demand  
Prevention, Intervention, and Harm Reduction in Cases of Self Neglect in New Mexico

[Register Here](#)