



# **Wadena County Human Services**

124 1st Street SE / Wadena, MN 56482 / 218-631-7605 / FAX: 218-631-7616

## **ADULT PROTECTION PRIORITIZATION GUIDELINES**

### **Introduction**

Wadena County Human Services has developed the following Adult Protection Prioritization Guidelines as required by MN Statute 626.557 Subd. 10b. These guidelines are to be utilized when it has been determined that Wadena County Human Services is the Lead Investigative Agency for Adult Protective Services and/or Emergency Protective Services of adult maltreatment reports received by Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center (MAARC).

### **Screening the Report**

Adult Protection Reports received by MAARC will be screened by the Adult Protection Screening Team using the current Minnesota Adult Protection Policy and Procedure Manual and Minnesota Adult Protection Structured Decision Making and Standardized Tools. The report received must contain information qualifying the alleged victim as a Vulnerable Adult per MN Statute 626.5572 Subd. 21. Upon determining the alleged victim to meet the definition of a Vulnerable Adult then the report must contain at least one allegation that meets at least one of the allegations outlined in MN Statute 626.5572 Subd. 2, 9, 17 criteria. Wadena County Human Services will respond to MAARC reports received per the outcome of the SSIS Adult Protection Intake Assessment and Response Priority decision tool and/or the SSIS Adult Protection EPS Intake Assessment and Response Priority decision tool. The following are time limits to response time based on as recommended by Minnesota Department of Human Services Policy and Procedure Manual and Minnesota Adult Protection Structured Decision Making and Standardized Tools Guidelines and Procedures Manual;

#### **Immediate Response Priority**

Wadena County Human Services shall conduct an immediate investigation meaning no longer than 24 hours from the time of initial knowledge of the incident occurring and determined to meet criteria for an investigation. This response time is to be used when it has been determined that emergency protective services are needed based on the information reported and the vulnerable adult is likely to be seriously harmed in the next 72 hours.

#### **Level 1 Priority**

Wadena County Human Services shall begin its investigation within 24 hours excluding weekends and holidays from the time the report has been screened and determined to meet criteria for an investigation in regards to complaints alleging and/or there is substantial evidence that a vulnerable adult is not in need of immediate care or protection but is allegedly abused.

#### **Level 2 Priority**

Wadena County Human Services shall begin its investigation within 72 hours excluding weekends and holidays from the time the report if it has been determined that the vulnerable adult is not in immediate danger of serious harm requiring a Level 1 response. The reason/s for this response level must be clearly documented.

## **Prioritization Guidelines**

The following is a list of guidelines developed for Wadena County Human Services to prioritize reports for investigation as required by MN Statute 626.557 Subd. 10b;

1. Reports made regarding alleged maltreatment of a vulnerable adult who is deceased will be responded to on a case by case basis in consultation with the Wadena County Sheriff's Office and the Wadena County Attorney's Office.
2. Reports involving alleged financial exploitation may be screened out if the vulnerable adult is deceased at the time of the report due to no impact on the victim at the time of the report.
3. Allegations regarding financial exploitation of less than \$500 that does not result in deprivation of necessary food, clothing, shelter, or healthcare for the vulnerable adult may be screened out.
4. Reports containing information that the vulnerable adult is no longer in the state of Minnesota with no indication of return to the state of Minnesota may be screened out.
5. Reports involving vulnerable adults who are currently incarcerated will be screened out. If the report alleges neglect or maltreatment while the vulnerable adult is incarcerated this will be forwarded to the Wadena County Sheriff's Department.
6. Reports alleging maltreatment of one vulnerable adult to another vulnerable adult may be screened out.
7. Allegations regarding self-neglect where there are current formal or informal supports securing safety may be screened out.
8. If there is not sufficient information in the report to determine the victim to meet criteria as a vulnerable adult the report may be opened to further investigate the status of the vulnerable adult.
9. Allegations regarding self-neglect reports will be screened and if there is an open social service case such as DD, AMH, AS, Waiver case management or care coordination of a person, the screening team may determine based upon the report that the report will be referred to the current workgroup of case management/care coordination.
10. Reports involving an alleged perpetrator who is a minor at the time of report will be screened and possibly sent to Child Protection intake.
11. When the vulnerable adult is in a safe environment at the time of the report screening and the vulnerable adult will likely remain there for the next 48-72 hours a screening override may be applied to modify the response time from 24 hours to 72 hours.



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