



ND VAPS | Vulnerable Adult
Protective Services

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Adult & Aging Services

NORTH
Dakota
Be Legendary.™

WHAT IS VAPS?

- The program addresses the safety of vulnerable adults who are at-risk of harm due to the presence or threat of abuse, neglect, or exploitation
- The program is offered statewide through the Adults and Aging Services Division or through local partner agencies

WHO DO WE SERVE?

- Adults aged 18 and older with substantial mental or functional impairments affecting their health, safety or independence.



DEFINITIONS

- **Substantial functional impairment** means any substantial incapability, because of physical limitation, of living independently or providing self-care as determined through observation, diagnosis, evaluation, or assessment
- **Substantial mental impairment** means substantial disorder of thought, mood, perception, orientation, or memory that grossly impairs judgment, behavior, or ability to live independently or provide self-care as revealed by observation, diagnosis, evaluation, or assessment

DEFINITIONS

- **Abuse** means any willful act or omission by a caregiver or other person, which results in physical injury, mental anguish, unreasonable confinement, sexual abuse or exploitation, or financial exploitation to or of a vulnerable adult
- **Neglect** means the failure of a caregiver to provide services necessary to maintain the physical and mental health of a vulnerable adult
- **Financial exploitation** means use or receipt of services provided by the vulnerable adult without just compensation, the taking, acceptance, misappropriation, or misuse of property or resources of a vulnerable adult by means of undue influence, breach of a fiduciary relationship, deception, harassment, criminal coercion, theft, or other unlawful or improper means
- **Self Neglect** means the inability or lack of desire of the vulnerable adult to maintain and safeguard their own physical and mental health

WHAT DO I LOOK FOR?

Abuse

Physical Abuse

- Hitting
- Bruising
- Slapping

Sexual Abuse

- Hands on offenses
- Hands off offenses
- Harmful genital practices

Neglect & Self Neglect

Refusal or failure to provide care

Inability to provide care for self

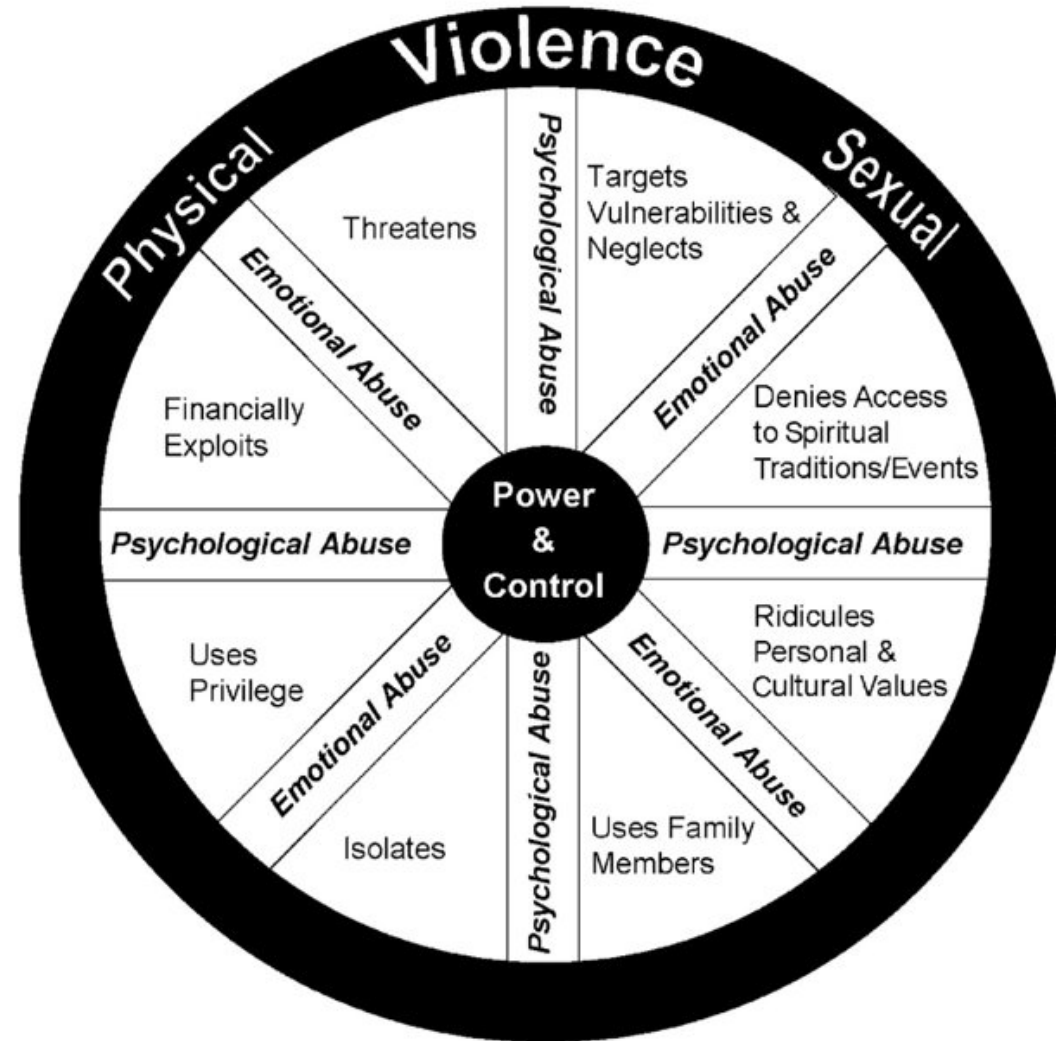
Food, water, shelter, medical care, etc.

Exploitation

Illegal or improper use of funds, property, or assets

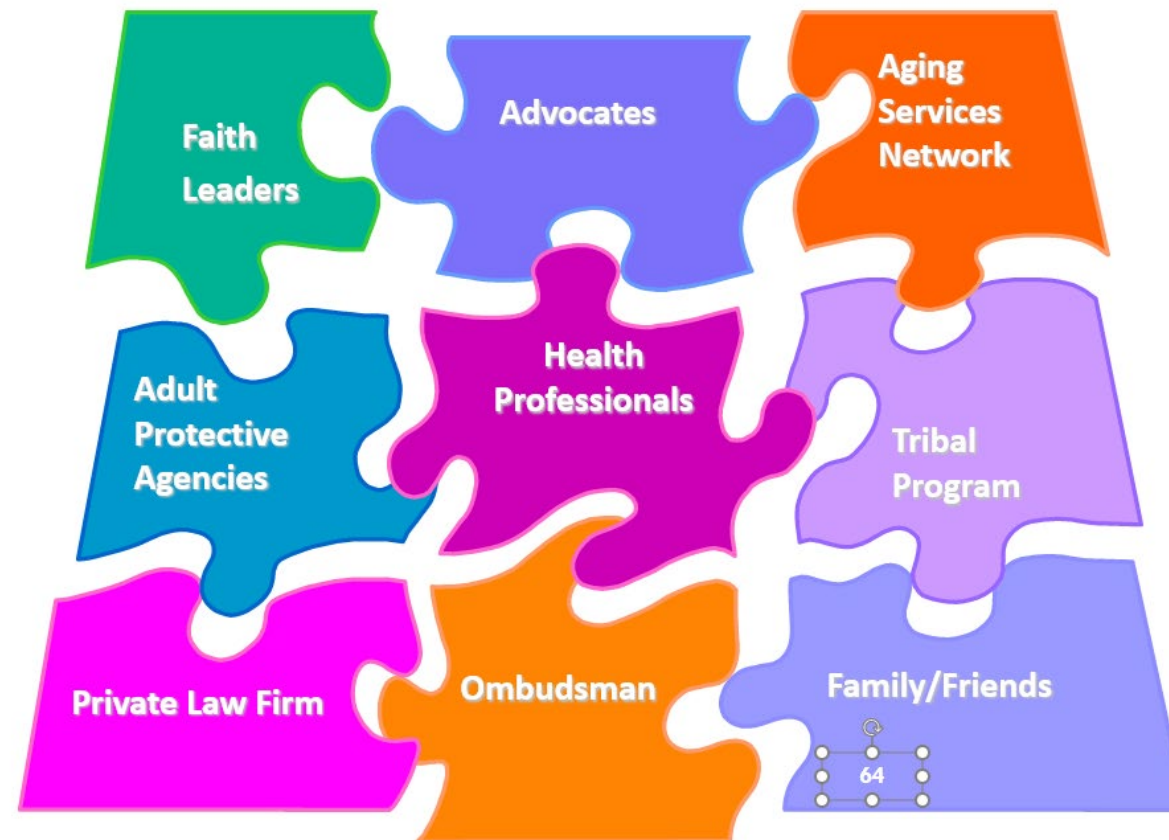
Theft, coercion, fraud, abuse of legal authority, scams

NCALL Abuse in Later Life Power and Control Wheel



Wheel adapted with permission from Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, Duluth, MN in 2006.

Who Might be Involved

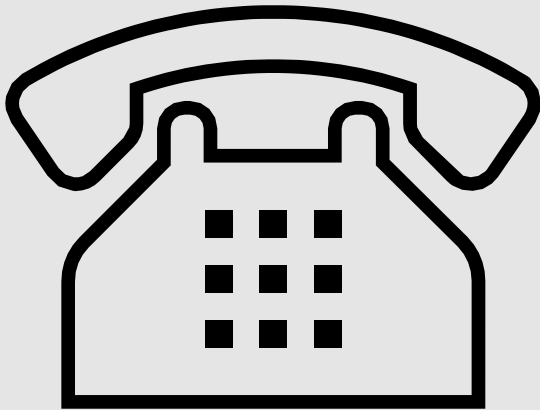




WHO CAN REPORT?

- **Mandatory reporters** such as a medical or mental health professional providing care or services to a vulnerable adult who knows that a vulnerable adult has been subjected to abuse or neglect is required to report
- **Anyone** can call with a concern including a friend, relative, neighbor, banker, or other concerned community member

HOW DO I REPORT?

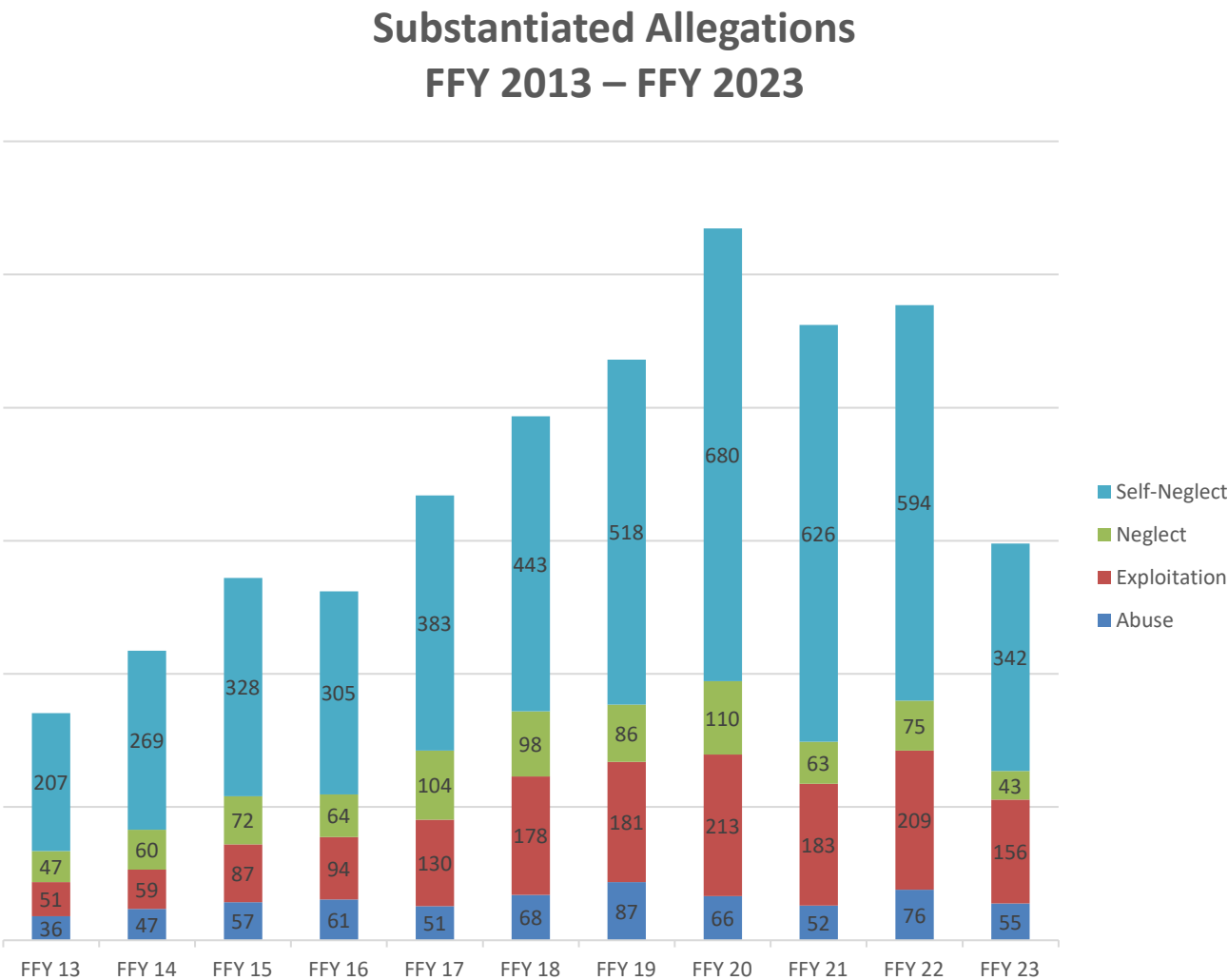


- **URGENT:** If a vulnerable adult is in immediate danger, call law enforcement NOW and afterwards report:
 - Online: <https://bit.ly/3vbYbEj>
 - Reporting form: www.nd.gov/eforms/doc/sfn01607.pdf
 - Email dhsvaps@nd.gov
 - Fax 701.328.8744
 - Call 1.855.462.5465, Option 2

REPORT VOLUME



Most common allegation:
Self Neglect



WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I REPORT?

Central intake staff members:

- Review your concern by asking screening questions to determine if the adult is in serious danger and needs immediate intervention (such as law enforcement)
- When appropriate, provide assistance to help individuals gain access to services by providing information and referring people to appropriate services
- If a report meets the criteria for further evaluation, information is sent to regional staff who conduct a home visit to do a full assessment and make appropriate referrals or provide follow-up as needed

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW AFTER I REPORT?

Decision Making Rights

- A person, including a vulnerable adult, has the right to make their own decisions unless the person gives up that right or the court system gives that responsibility to someone else.

Living Environment

- A person, including a vulnerable adult, has the right to live how he or she wants if it does not harm others or involve a crime.

Protective Arrangements

- If supporting medical evidence questions competency, VAPS will take appropriate steps to ensure the person's safety

Least Restrictive

- VAPS focuses on the least restrictive intervention possible in order to preserve an person's independence. Whenever possible, services are provided in a person's home to help them avoid placement



QUESTIONS



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