



Understanding Professional Roles

Professional Role

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Role Function

Adult Protective Services provide services to adults who are partially or completely unable to protect their own interests or who are vulnerable to exploitation, neglect, or injury. Organizations offer screening, investigation, and intervention, as appropriate, to adults who have been mentally, emotionally, physically or sexually abused, neglected by themselves or others with responsibilities towards them, exploited financially or otherwise, or abandoned. When appropriate, Adult Protective Services assist guardians and caretakers in fulfilling their roles.

Abilities

- Receive referrals of adults alleged to be in need of protective services
- Conduct investigations of referrals that are assigned
- Identifying and assessing the individual's situation and service needs through the use of physical, psychological, psychiatric or social evaluations and consultations
- Assess levels of safety and danger
- Counsel at-risk adults or their appropriate representatives
- Assisting in the following:
 - The location or maintenance of adequate food, shelter, clothing
 - Required medical care, mental health services
 - Conservatorship, commitment or protective placements as needed and legally mandated
 - Location of or arranging for emergency shelter care as funding allows provide legal intervention, when necessary develop safety plans and or service action plans as needed transportation necessary in the provision of these service components
- Provide advocacy on behalf of the Customer or the program

Limitations

- State/local legal requirements re: decision-making criteria for screening cases, may vary.
- Adults retain all their civil and constitutional rights, i.e., the right to live their lives as they wish, manage their own finances, enter into contracts, marry, etc. unless a court adjudicates otherwise.
- Adults have right to make decisions that do not conform with societal norms as long as these decisions do not harm others.
- Adults have right to accept/refuse services.
- Self-determination
- Capacity - decisional capacity is defined by 4 criteria: elders must understand basic facts surrounding a decision; appreciate personal impact of decision, including one's capabilities and limitations; have a reasoning process for comparing options and predicting consequences of alternative choices
- Be able to make a choice.
- Funds availability