

Attorneys and Law Enforcement

Core Members of Multidisciplinary Teams
for Adult Protective Services

Adult Protective Services 2022



Shared Purpose



What do Attorneys, Prosecutors, Law Enforcement, and Adult Protective Services Workers have in common?

Trained Professionals

Compassionate Individuals

Dedicated Advocates

All are committed to working for justice so older adults and adults with disabilities can safely live full and dignified lives in Illinois.

Adult Protective Services

Adult Protective Services is an advocacy program that operates to ensure the health, safety and welfare of older adults and adults with disabilities in Illinois.

Local provider agencies for the Illinois Department on Aging conduct investigations to substantiate abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation cases.

When an adult consents to services, a provider agency develops a specialized care plan offering available interventions and services targeted at eliminating abuse and reducing the risk of harm in the future.

Abuse cases often involve highly functioning impaired victims, more than one type of mistreatment, and complex family dynamics.

Given the complexity of these cases, and the fact that there are often gaps in the services needed to assist victims, one of the most effective ways to plan out possible interventions is to call for collaboration by a Multidisciplinary Team in a case.

Abuse cases are complex.

What is a
Multidisciplinary
Team (MDT)?

An MDT is a statutorily authorized mechanism for bringing together the **expertise** and **skills** of different professionals to act in a technical advisory role for local APS provider agencies.



MDT Functions

With a few exceptions, each APS provider agency has an MDT in its geographic area.

The MDT meets to discuss specific cases of adult abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation.

- **Providing consultation on complex cases**
- **Acting as a sounding board for caseworkers**
- **Providing different perspectives on problems**
- **Improving networking among peers within each professional group**

Who are the
Core
Members of
an MDT?

Disability Care

Law Enforcement

Health Care

Legal

Clergy

Financial

Mental Health

Optional Members

MDT Core Members

Disability Care: This member provides expertise, advice and information regarding adults with disabilities.

Law Enforcement: This member provides insight about the criminal justice issues and possible legal interventions to support the victim,, such as responding to theft by a caretaker or removing the abuser from the home.

Health Care: This member (a nurse, physician or other health care professional) provides advice and information about available medical resources under Medicare and Medicaid, home health services and their limitations, and the effects of medications.

MDT Core Members continued

Legal: This member (an attorney) provides information about relevant statutes and administrative rules; explains advance directive, estate planning, and guardianship issues; and advises on the merits of different remedies.

Clergy: This member gives advice from a pastoral perspective and may seek services or support from the client's church, as required.

MDT Core Members continued

Financial: This member (generally a banker) provides information regarding bank accounts and fiscal transactions, shares ideas about preventing fraud using various digital banking tools, and supports money management training.

Mental Health: This member (a social worker or psychiatric nurse) offers expertise in mental health diagnoses, forms of therapy, medications, and case management.

Optional Members: Representatives from other professional fields such as domestic violence, sexual assault, substance abuse, etc.

Why Cases Are Selected

CHRONIC CASE

Caseworker cannot think of any other direction to help resolve case.

ETHICS (SELF-DETERMINATION)

Caseworker faces ethical dilemmas related to interventions that may conflict with client self-determination.

TEACHING ISSUES FOR TEAM

Case had interesting issues that will teach the team members more about abuse.

NEED SPECIALIZED EXPERTISE

Special skills or knowledge of M-Team members are needed.

UPDATE

Current status of previously discussed case (information only, no discussion required).

FOLLOW-UP

Worker seeks follow-up discussion on previously discussed case.

MDT Meetings

The date, time, and location of meetings are determined by each local group according to their own schedules and convenience.

An MDT meets a minimum of eight times per year.

MDT meetings run for one to two hours.

A case is summarized by the assigned caseworker and team members discuss feedback regarding intervention and prevention strategies.

Confidential

Efficient

Goal-oriented

Case Review Recommendations

After review of brief written and verbal summaries about a case, the MDT discusses the allegations, the condition of both the victim and the abuser, and needed services for resolution of the abusive situation.



Recommendations are made relating to identification, education, prevention, collaboration, intervention, and remediation issues at individual, family, and community levels.

The goal is to improve coordination and identify gaps in responding across the health care, social service, and justice systems.

Follow-up Requests

Members may be asked:

- to follow-up on issues in their respective fields of expertise after a case review.
- to prepare brief educational presentations at MDT meetings and meetings of other civic/professional groups.
- to assist with securing referrals for other professionals to appear at an MDT meeting.

Confidentiality Protections

All abuse reports and related records are confidential under the Adult Protective Services Program.

Disclosure must be specifically authorized by law or a court order.

Each M-Team member must sign a confidentiality agreement prohibiting release of information about abuse cases. (Although names are not shared on review, the identity of an individual may become evident if a case arises in a less populated area.)



Confidentiality is a matter of public trust for the Adult Protective Services Program.

Immunity Protections



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Immunity protections are afforded from civil, criminal, or other liability under the Adult Protective Services Act for any person, institution, or agency who in good faith:

- makes a report;
- provides information or records related to a report, assessment, or services;
- participates in the investigation of a report;
- takes photographs or x-rays as a result of an authorized assessment;
- provides assessment, intervention, or administrative services

Members are protected for their work with MDTs.

APS MDT Membership

If you would like to serve on a Team in your area,
please contact your local Adult Protective Services
Provider Agency.

Visit:

<https://webapps.illinois.gov/AGE/ProviderProfileSearch>

Call: 1-866-800-1409

