

**ENGAGE 2 CHANGE**

**RECOGNIZE AND REPORT  
ABUSE OF OLDER ADULTS  
& PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

[www2.illinois.gov/aging/Engage](http://www2.illinois.gov/aging/Engage)

**24-hour hotline: 1-866-800-1409**



**State of Illinois, Department on Aging**

One Natural Resources Way, #100  
Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271  
[www.illinois.gov/aging](http://www.illinois.gov/aging)

**Senior HelpLine** (8:30am – 5:00pm, Monday – Friday):  
**1-800-252-8966**, 1-888-206-1327 (TTY)

**Adult Protective Services Hotline (24-Hour):**  
**1-866-800-1409**, 1-888-206-1327 (TTY)

The Illinois Department on Aging does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in compliance with appropriate State and federal statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, call the Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966, 1-888-206-1327 (TTY).



State of Illinois  
Illinois Department on Aging



**ABANDONED**

Engage to learn, recognize,  
and help those who are  
experiencing abandonment



*A Program of the Adult Protective  
Services of Illinois*

**#ENGAGE 2 CHANGE**

# ILLINOIS ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES PROGRAM

The Illinois Adult Protective Services Act (Public Act 98-0049) was enacted into law to address abuse of adults with disabilities between the ages of 18-59 or persons age 60 or older who live in the community. (eligible adults). Under the authority of the Act, the Illinois Department on Aging administers a statewide Adult Protective Services (APS) intervention program to respond to reports of alleged abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, and self-neglect, and to work with the adult to develop and implement a case plan to stabilize the situation and resolve the abusive circumstances.

In addition, the APS Program accepts reports of abandonment to help eligible adults who have been left without proper care or necessities. This brochure is intended to help you understand what abandonment means and how it fits into APS.

## Abandonment:

Abandonment is defined as “the desertion or willful forsaking of an eligible adult by an individual responsible for the care and custody of that eligible adult under circumstances in which a reasonable person would continue to provide care and custody.” (Public Act 102-0244)

It is important to note the following criteria must be met:

- The abandonment must have been perpetrated by an individual “responsible for the care and custody” of the eligible adult and,
- A “reasonable person” would have continued to provide care and custody to the eligible adult.

## Potential indicators of abandonment:

- Individual left alone without basic necessities creating a risk to the individual.
- Abuser surrendered care of the individual to another individual or agency that is incapable of meeting the individuals’ needs.
- Abuser surrendered care of the individual to another individual or agency without arranging for follow up care with this entity.
- Abuser ceases providing care to an individual without a plan for replacement care.

## Individual Choice:

The APS program is based on the adult’s right to self-determination; no decisions are made about the adult without the adult’s involvement and consent. Every effort is made to respect the choices, goals, and preferences of the eligible adult including their right to remain in their own home.

## To Report:

The Adult Protective Services Program can only help those adults at risk who are identified through a report. Call if you suspect any type of abuse, exploitation, or abandonment. **All calls are confidential.**

## The 24-hour hotline number is 1-866-800-1409

When a report is received, a trained caseworker responds within a specified time period depending on the severity of the case.

## APS Services:

With the adult’s consent, APS will intervene to assist the individual in obtaining items essential for them, such as food, clothing, shelter and health care, and obtaining goods and services necessary to maintain physical and mental health.

