

# Definitions

## **VULNERABLE ADULT**

A person 18 years of age or older who is unable to protect himself from abuse, neglect, or exploitation due to physical or mental impairment which affects the person's judgment or behavior to the extent that he lacks sufficient understanding or capacity to make or communicate or implement decisions regarding his person.

## **ABUSE**

The intentional or negligent infliction of physical pain, injury or mental injury.

## **NEGLECT**

Failure of a caretaker to provide food, clothing, shelter or medical care reasonably necessary to sustain the life and health of a vulnerable adult, or the failure of a vulnerable adult to provide those services for himself.

## **EXPLOITATION**

An action which may include, but is not limited to, the unjust or improper use of a vulnerable adult's financial power of attorney, funds, property, or resources by another person for profit or advantage.

Idaho Code 39-5302

# Contact Us

EICAP helps the people of our nine county service area.



Bonneville	Jefferson
Butte	Lemhi
Clark	Madison
Custer	Teton
Fremont	

For more information about any of our services, please call/walk in to one of the following offices or visit [eastidahoaging.com](http://eastidahoaging.com) on the internet.

## **EICAP MAIN OFFICE**

935 E Lincoln Road  
Idaho Falls, ID 83401  
Phone: (208) 522-5391  
Toll Free: (800) 632-4813

## **OUTREACH OFFICES**

**SALMON**  
955 Riverfront Drive, Suite A  
Salmon, ID 83467  
Phone: (208) 756-3999  
Toll Free: (800) 359-9163

## **REXBURG**

275 Stationery Place  
Rexburg, ID 83440  
Phone: (208) 356-8849

**Email us at [ap@eicap.org](mailto:ap@eicap.org)**



# Adult Protection



**(208) 522-5391**

**[www.eastidahoaging.com](http://www.eastidahoaging.com)**

**[www.eicap.org](http://www.eicap.org)**

Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership helps at-risk individuals and families meet their basic needs and increase independence through support and education.



# Adult Protection Services

*Safeguarding vulnerable adults from incidents of abuse, neglect or exploitation.*

## WHAT IS ADULT PROTECTION?

The Idaho Commission on Aging (ICOA) is charged by the State of Idaho with protecting vulnerable adults. ICOA has contracted with Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership's Area Agency on Aging to provide Adult Protection (AP) in the nine counties of eastern Idaho. Adult Protection investigates all reports of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and self-neglect of vulnerable adults, working with the family and with other agencies to find solutions.

## WHO MUST REPORT?

If you have cause to believe a vulnerable adult has been mistreated, you must report the situation to Adult Protection.

Many professions including medical professionals, social workers, home care workers, and those who work with adult populations are required, by law, to report to Adult Protection. In the instance of a sexual assault, serious physical injury or death, law enforcement must be called within four hours.

All reports are confidential and can be made anonymously.

## INFORMATION AP WILL NEED

- Name, age, and address of vulnerable adult
- Name and addresses of caregivers or others who care for the person
- Information about health and mental status of the vulnerable adult
- Allegations of abuse, neglect, or exploitation
- Name and address of the alleged perpetrator

## HOW AP INVESTIGATES

Once Adult Protection receives a report, we have 72 hours to begin an investigation (24 hours if it is a life or death situation). We often try to begin with an on-site visit with the victim. We try to determine the extent in which the victim's mental or physical impairment limits his/her ability to protect him/herself from the abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Since it is their situation we are focusing on, we need to know their view of the circumstances and their wishes on how to resolve it.

Investigators interview all persons involved or related to the victim, who may have information relevant to helping the victim. In addition we may interview the alleged perpetrator when the victim's safety is not an issue.

## AFTER THE INVESTIGATION

Based on the evidence gathered, Adult Protection declares a case Substantiated if there is enough evidence to indicate the allegation most likely occurred or Unsubstantiated otherwise. For all substantiated cases, we make every effort possible to assist the victim to resolve the problem. In the case of allegations of abuse, neglect or exploitation, all substantiated cases are referred to Law Enforcement and the Idaho Commission on Aging to submit to the Department of Health and Welfare's Criminal History Unit.

When the victim is receptive, services and supports are established to help correct the situation. This may include coordination of services from the Area Agency on Aging and other agencies.

If the victim is not competent, we may be able to provide resources to their support system to make the situation safer. This may include encouraging responsible family members, friends, or the Board of Community Guardians to seek guardianship.

## WHAT AP CAN'T DO

We try to help people the best that we can. However, our statutes do not allow us to:

- Evaluate allegations under Medicaid laws and rules
- Remove and/or transport a vulnerable adult
- Issue subpoenas or search warrants
- Conduct hearings
- Take adverse action against alleged perpetrators in substantiated cases

