

# THE ROLE OF AN ADULT PROTECTION SOCIAL WORKER IN HOME CARE



## What is Adult Protection?

The purpose of the Adult Protection Act is twofold –

- to provide or arrange for assistance for a vulnerable adult who is in need of assistance; and
- to provide protective (court) intervention for a vulnerable adult who is in need of protection.

An adult is entitled to live in the manner they wish and can accept or decline assistance offered by Adult Protection, provided the adult has the capacity to make such decisions.

## What is the role of an Adult Protection Social Worker in Home Care?

The Adult Protection (AP) Social Worker provides assessment and investigation of vulnerable\* adults who may be at risk of abuse and/or neglect. They create care plans to address identified safety risks and often collaborate with primary care providers, public guardians/trustees, geriatrics, mental health, addictions, housing, acute care, law enforcement and other professionals/services.

***\*Vulnerability may include; physical and/or cognitive limitations, incapacity, infirmity and/or disability.***

## Positions in Home Care ADULT PROTECTION

Prince  
County  
2 AP  
Social  
Workers

Queens  
County  
2 AP  
Social  
Workers

Kings  
County  
2 AP  
Social  
Workers

**+ 1 Provincial Consultant Position**

## When to send a referral:

**If you suspect a vulnerable adult is in need of protection or assistance due to:**

**Emotional abuse:** psychological harm or mistreatment which can result in emotional distress

**Physical abuse:** forced physical contact which can result in unexplained physical injuries

**Sexual abuse:** forced or non-consensual sexual contact

**Financial abuse:** unauthorized or improper use of financial resources

**Self-neglect:** failure to meet basic necessities including food, shelter, clothing, hygiene, medical needs

**Caregiver neglect:** failure to ensure basic necessities are met including food, shelter, clothing, hygiene, medical needs

## What Adult Protection Social Workers offer to Home Care clients & staff:



**Safety Planning**



**Court Intervention**



**Advocating**



**Consulting**



**Collaborating**



**Assessing Risk**



**Investigating**



**Linking/Connecting to Other Services**



# Adult Protection



## REPORTING PROCESS

### Infacility Investigations

Infacility investigation may include an analysis of the adult's condition, circumstances & needs, taking into consideration medical, health, social, residential, financial, vocational, educational and other factors affecting the ability of the adult to make reasonable judgments, provide for their safety and well-being and protect their estate.

- Infacility reports are to follow intake process as per business process. The exception is intakes regarding allegations of staff to resident abuse in any facility; will go through the intake process, then sent to AP Consultant.
- When the Adult Protection Consultant receives an institutional AP report directly, they will gather information themselves and complete the Adult Protection form.

### Duty to Report

Any person who, by virtue of their professional employment or occupation in health care, social services, education, law enforcement, counselling, residential services or any other field where the person has a duty of care to vulnerable adults, has reasonable grounds for believing that an adult is in need of assistance or protection shall report. (Adult Protection Act).

***Please note that the report source is always confidential.***

### Home Care Team Member Internal Reporting Process

- All Adult Protection reports from Home Care team members are to go directly to the Home Care Intake worker (not directly to the Adult Protection Social Worker).
- You may need to discuss with your supervisor as a first step to determine the appropriateness of referral and next steps.

### DID YOU KNOW?

***Adult Protection received 374 referrals in 2024, most requiring assistance and 4 emergency interventions.***