

OGDEN CITY POLICE

Office of the Chief

Policy No: 10

Subject Domestic Mistreatment of Vulnerable Adults	Effective Date March 2018
Department Police	Replaces Policy Dated February 2006
Division All Police Personnel	Review Date June 2024
Authorized Signature 	

NOTE: This rule or regulation is for internal use only and does not enlarge an officer's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this directive, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this agency, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish the guidelines to be followed wherein any act or behavior by a family member or person providing care (formally or informally) which results in physical or mental harm or neglect of a vulnerable adult is properly reported and investigated.

II. POLICY

Under Utah Human Service Code 62A-3-305, any person, including a social worker, physician, psychologist, nurse, teacher, or employee of a private facility serving adults who has reason to believe that any vulnerable adult has been the subject of abuse, neglect or exploitation will immediately notify the nearest peace officer for further assistance.

III. DEFINITIONS

Vulnerable Adult: A person 18 years of age or older who has mental or physical impairment which substantially affects that person's ability to care for his own personal safety or to provide necessities such as food, shelter, clothing, or medical care.

Abuse: Willful, direct infliction of physical pain or injury. Denial of physical and health-related necessities of life.

Neglect: Lack of attention, failure to provide care, intimidation, abandonment, and confinement of the vulnerable adult by family members or society.

Psychosocial Abuse: Removal of decision-making power from the vulnerable adult. Withholding of affection, social isolation.

Exploitation: Any situation involving the dishonest use of a vulnerable adult's resources such as money or property. Misappropriation of health care resources.

IV. PROCEDURE

When the initial report is made to a peace officer, the officer or agency will immediately notify the Utah Department of Human Services, Office of Social Services, Adult Protective Services, because that office will initiate protective service procedures as outlined in referenced Human Service Code. OPD officers should also investigate the situation and document it with a report. Reports will be forwarded for further investigation.

When the initial report is made to the local Social Service Office and it appears that abuse, neglect or exploitation has caused bodily injury or a serious imposition on the rights of the vulnerable adult, that office will notify the local law enforcement agency that will initiate a full investigation.