

# ABUSE . . .

## Here's What it Looks Like

- Being left alone for long periods of time without support when needed
- Going without food or water for long periods of time
- Being scared or nervous around certain family members or caregivers
- If someone wants to be left alone more than usual and is being unsociable
- If a person is suddenly not interested in the way they look, not taking their meds or is refusing to go to doctors appointments
- If someone's money or things are being stolen
- If the way someone touches you or where they touch makes you feel uncomfortable or unsafe
- Unexplained bruises, marks, or burns
- Unexplained changes in health

If you see any of these signs in a friend or family member, then you should contact the *Adult Protective Services Office*.

NH Only Phone: 1 - (800) 949-0470

Email: [apscentraintake@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:apscentraintake@dhhs.nh.gov)

## The SALT Team



The Self-Advocacy Leadership Team (SALT) serves as consultants for the New Hampshire Council on Developmental Disabilities and other advocacy organizations. Our group's members are talented citizens who want to effect positive change in our state. We are committed to supporting people who experience disabilities by tackling big issues that keep us from living quality lives in our chosen communities.



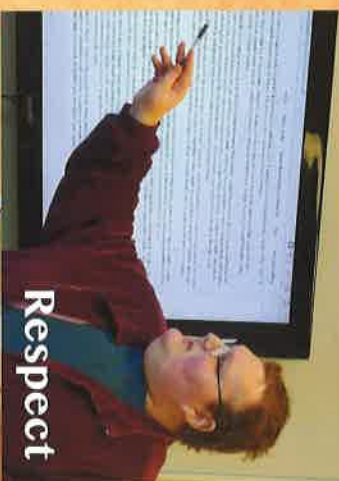
## New Hampshire Council on Developmental Disabilities

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## Adult Protective Services Law



Dignity



Respect



Safety



Knowledge is key

## What is the Adult Protective Services Law ?

The purpose of Adult Protective Services Law is to protect vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Exploitation means to take advantage of someone, usually involving stealing money. The State of NH believes that individuals have the right to make choices about their lives to the fullest extent possible.

Everyone has the right to live in safe environments. But when these rights are violated, sometimes legal action must be taken.

*“The law states that if you suspect there is a problem, then you must report it.”*



## What is the Registry ?

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services created a list of names called “The Registry” as a way to keep track of people who were found responsible for abuse, neglect, or exploitation of other people.

This is a good thing because it means that these people cannot continue their abuse in other areas of the state. If someone listed on The Registry applies for a job that includes supporting people with disabilities, their name will show up and potential employers can refuse to consider their application. If someone applies to work at a job that supports people with disabilities and their name is on the registry, they will not be hired.

For more information, call this NH Only Toll Free number: 1-(800)-949-0470

The Self-Advocacy Leadership Team (SALT) and Engaging NH have created a guide to the NH law related to abuse, neglect and exploitation. Legal documents can often be overwhelming and read like a strange language. For example:

*“161-F:45 - Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to mean a person is abused, neglected, exploited, or in need of protective services for the sole reason that he relies on or is being furnished treatment by spiritual means alone through prayer in accordance with the tenets and practices of a church or religious denomination of which he is a member or adherent.”*

But by understanding the real dangers that exist, we can try to prevent them. And by understanding our rights, we are better equipped to fight for them. The Adult Protective Services Law helps to explain your options.



*The key to staying safe is knowing your rights....unlock your power !*