

## INDICATORS OF NEGLECT, ENDANGERMENT, AND ABUSE

Time is of the essence in these investigations, so promptly contact our office as soon as you identify any neglect, exploitation, or abuse of care-dependent Pennsylvanians.

Indicators of neglect, endangerment, and abuse include:

- Care-dependent persons who are malnourished, dehydrated, or have untreated bedsores
- Unexplained bruises, burns, puncture wounds, pinch marks, lacerations, or welts
- Passive, withdrawn, or emotionless behavior
- Care-dependent persons who appear unkempt, unclean, or disheveled
- Soiled bedding, dirty clothes, or unclean odors
- Frequent missed medical or dental appointments



## REFERRALS

Anyone can refer a case involving neglect, endangerment, and/or abuse to the Care-Dependent Neglect Team. Family members, doctors, health care providers, insurance companies, and concerned citizens often provide essential information leading to an investigation. The Care-Dependent Neglect Team regularly partners with local, state, and federal authorities to identify and prosecute cases throughout Pennsylvania.

As soon as you identify any signs of patient neglect, endangerment, and/or abuse, immediately refer the matter to the Office of Attorney General by email, phone, or online referral.

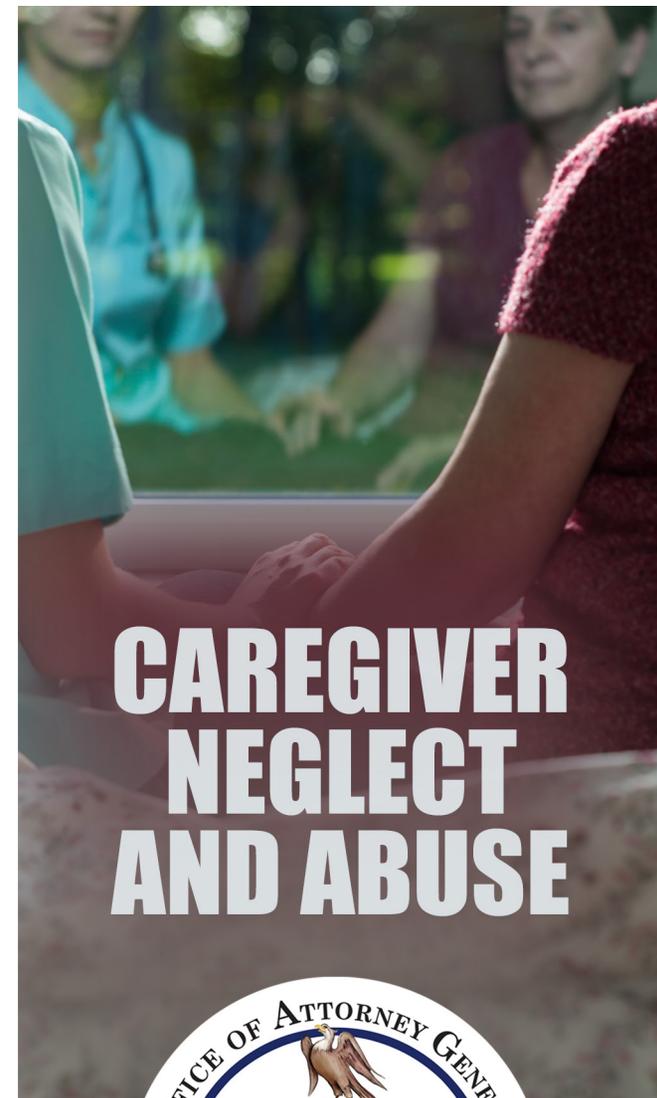
**email:** [mfcsintake@attorneygeneral.gov](mailto:mfcsintake@attorneygeneral.gov)

**phone:** (717) 712-1220; (717) 783-1481

**online:** [www.attorneygeneral.gov/medicaid](http://www.attorneygeneral.gov/medicaid)

The Care-Dependent Neglect Intake Team is headquartered at Strawberry Square, 7th Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17120.

[www.attorneygeneral.gov](http://www.attorneygeneral.gov)



# CAREGIVER NEGLECT AND ABUSE



**Dave Sunday**  
*Attorney General*



# CARE-DEPENDENT NEGLECT TEAM

The Pennsylvania Attorney General's Care-Dependent Neglect Team is part of the Medicaid Fraud Control Section, and is comprised of prosecutors, agents, and analysts focused specifically on protecting Pennsylvania's most vulnerable citizens from caregiver neglect and abuse.

*“Caretakers are entrusted with caring for our seniors and our most vulnerable citizens. When they violate that trust our Medicaid Fraud Control Unit’s Neglect Team will vigorously investigate and prosecute them to protect our loved ones from abuse.”*

--Attorney General Dave Sunday

## NEGLECT, ENDANGERMENT, AND ABUSE

As the elderly and disabled become more dependent on others for their care, it becomes increasingly important for individuals who accept the position of trust as their caretakers to be held accountable for neglecting and endangering those in their care. Failure to provide the care necessary to maintain the welfare of those who depend on that care is every bit as dangerous and harmful as intentional assaultive behavior.

### WHO DO WE PROTECT?

A care-dependent person is anyone 18 years of age or older who has a physical or cognitive impairment for which they receive care, services, or treatment.

### NEGLECT

Criminal neglect of a care-dependent person occurs when a caregiver knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly causes injury (up to and including death) to a care-dependent person by failing to provide treatment, care, goods, or services that are necessary to maintain the health or safety of that person.

Examples of patient neglect include:

- Failure to give prescribed medication
- Failure to seek needed medical treatment in a timely manner or not at all
- Failure to follow doctor's orders with regard to treatment or care plans

- Failure to follow dietary restrictions and precautions
- Using physical or chemical restraints

### ENDANGERMENT

Criminal neglect of a care-dependent person also occurs when a caregiver intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly endangers the welfare of a care-dependent person through the failure to provide treatment, care, goods, or services, even if the person is ultimately not injured as a result.

### ABUSE

Abuse of a care-dependent person occurs when a caregiver intentionally subjects or threatens to subject a care-dependent person to unwanted physical contact or other harassing activity, with the intent to harass, alarm, or annoy that person.

Examples of patient abuse include:

- Strikes, shoves, kicks, or threatens physical contact
- Communicating any lewd, lascivious, threatening or obscene words, language, drawings, or caricatures
- Communicating repeatedly with the care-dependent person at extremely inconvenient hours
- Stalking a care-dependent person
- Engaging in behavior that serves no legitimate purpose