

# Safeguarding Adults



## What is safeguarding adults?:

Safeguarding adults means helping adults, who may be at risk, to stay free from abuse and neglect. It used to be called 'Adult Protection'. Everyone has a responsibility to report suspicions or allegations of abuse.

IPA works primarily with children but we also support whole families. This guide should be read in conjunction with IPA's safeguarding policies and procedures.

## Who is an adult at risk?:

An adult at risk is someone who is 18 years or over and is or may have needs for care and support. As a result of their mental or other disability, age or illness, they may find it difficult to protect themselves from abuse. Children and carers can also be at risk of abuse.

## What is abuse?:

The main types of abuse are:

- Physical
- Sexual
- Emotional/psychological
- Financial/material
- Modern Slavery
- Neglect/acts of omission
- Self-neglect
- Institutional
- Discriminatory
- Domestic Violence

## Who abuses?:

Lots of different people may abuse adults at risk; some examples are:

- the adult's own family and friends
- people who are employed to care for them
- people who deliberately target adults at risk

Not all abuse is intentional. For example, a paid care worker may not know that a particular procedure or technique can harm a person. It is still important to report these situations as we can help. For example, we might be able to make sure the member of staff gets proper training.

## What are the signs of abuse?:

There are many signs of abuse, some examples are:

- The person looks dirty or is not dressed properly
- The person never seems to have money
- The person has an injury that is difficult to explain
- The person seems frightened

There may be other explanations but these are often signs of abuse. If you're not sure, it's better to report it to be on the safe side.

What should I do if I suspect abuse?

- If there is a risk of immediate harm to the vulnerable adult and/or others:
  - Take yourself out of danger
  - Call 999
- If there is no immediate risk but you think abuse or neglect may be a problem:
  - Complete an incident record and give it to the Designated Safeguarding Officer

**What happens next?:**

- Designated officer starts chronology using concerns tracking record. Any concerns and your intention to refer to CSCT should be discussed with the individual.
- Designated Safeguarding officer contacts children's service contact team (CSCT) within one working day. Tel: 020 7527 7400 email [csctreferrals@islington.gov.uk](mailto:csctreferrals@islington.gov.uk)
- The Designated Safeguarding Officer will follow IPA's procedures in the Making a Referral flowchart.