

## **Reporting Abuse, Neglect, Self-Neglect, and Exploitation of Vulnerable Adults During the COVID-19 Crisis**

During this time of uncertainty and social distancing, it is more important than ever for each of us to be alert to possible abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or exploitation of seniors and vulnerable adults in our community.

- If you have concerns that a senior or vulnerable adult in your community is being abused, neglected, self-neglected, or financially exploited and is in immediate danger, call 911.
- If you suspect that a senior or vulnerable adult in your community is being abused, neglected, self-neglected, or financially exploited, and is not in immediate danger, contact your county Adult Protective Services office at <https://dss.sc.gov/abuseneglect/report-abuse-and-neglect-of-a-vulnerable-adult/>.
- If you believe that an adult residing in a licensed nursing facility, assisted living facility/residential care facility, or a facility operated or contracted for operation by the SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs or the SC Department of Mental Health is being abused, neglected, or financially exploited, contact the SC Department on Aging Office of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program at 1-800-868-9095.
- If you feel that a senior in your community may need extra support, such as home delivered meals, during this time please contact the Regional Area Offices on Aging at: (NOTE: Due to high call volume please leave a message with your name and phone number, and your call will be returned.)
  - Region I – Appalachia 1-864-242-9733
  - Region II – Upper Savannah 1-800-922-7729
  - Region III – Catawba 1-800-662-8330
  - Region IV – Central Midlands 1-803-376-5390
  - Region V – Lower Savannah 1-866-845-1550
  - Region VI – Santee Lynches 1-800-948-1042
  - Region VII – Pee Dee 1-866-505-3331
  - Region VIII – Waccamaw 1-888-302-7550
  - Region IX – Trident 1-800-894-0415
  - Region X – Lowcountry 1-877-846-8148
- If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, contact the SC Department of Mental Health’s Community Crisis Response and Intervention Team (CCRI) at 1-833-DMH-CCRI (1-833-364-2274). For non-emergencies, contact information for your local mental health center can be found at <https://scdmh.net/dmh-components/community-mental-health-services/>
- To assist an adult or child with an intellectual or related disability, autism spectrum disorder, traumatic brain injury, or a spinal cord injury, please contact the SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs at 803-898-9600 or visit <https://ddsn.sc.gov/>

For additional information about abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and financial exploitation of vulnerable adults (including what signs to look for and other ways you can help), please go to the National Center on Elder Abuse’s website at <https://ncea.acl.gov/Resources/COVID-19.aspx>