

Southwest Idaho Area Agency on Aging

Adult Protective Services



# Adult Protective Services (APS)

- ▶ The APS Program is administered by the Idaho Commission on Aging (ICOA). Provision of services are implemented through contracting with each of the local Area Agencies on Aging.
- ▶ There are 6 Area Agencies on Aging statewide.
- ▶ Southwest Idaho Area Agency on Aging/Area 3 Senior Services Agency is the largest in the state.

# APS Service Coverage Map



# Area 3 Coverage Area

- ▶ Counties Served:

- ▶ Ada
  - ▶ Adams
  - ▶ Boise
  - ▶ Canyon
  - ▶ Elmore
  - ▶ Gem
  - ▶ Owyhee
  - ▶ Payette
  - ▶ Valley
  - ▶ Washington
- ▶ Approximately 785,000 people live in these counties, 85% of which reside in the Treasure Valley.

# Adult Protective Services Role

- ▶ Investigate allegations of Abuse, Neglect, Self-Neglect & Exploitation of vulnerable adults.
- ▶ Conduct assessments to determine vulnerability
- ▶ Provide appropriate resources and referrals
- ▶ Refer to The Department of Health and Welfare and Law Enforcement when appropriate
- ▶ Collaborate with community partners
- ▶ Provide education and training throughout the community

## Vulnerable Adult Defined

**Idaho Code 39-5302(10)** defines a vulnerable adult as, “person 18 years of age or older who is unable to protect himself/herself from abuse, neglect, or exploitation due to physical, or mental impairment which affects the person’s judgment or behavior to the extent that he/she lack sufficient understanding or capacity to make or communicate or implement decisions regarding his/her person.”

Idaho Code 39-5302(1) defines Abuse as, “ intentional or negligent infliction of physical pain, injury, or mental injury.”

► Types of abuse:

- Physical
- Sexual
- Verbal/Emotional

► Common indicators of abuse:

- Bruises
- Burns
- Scratches
- Unexplained injuries
- Overly medicated
- Socially withdrawn
- Unusual behavior

All allegations made to APS regarding possible sexual abuse are referred to law enforcement, within 24 hours. Before APS can conduct an investigation, law enforcement must provide APS with permission.

Idaho Code 39-5302(7) defines self-neglect/neglect as, “failure of a caretaker to provide food, clothing, shelter or medical care reasonably necessary to sustain the life and health of a vulnerable adult, or the failure of the vulnerable adult to provide those services for himself.

▶ Common indicators of neglect:

- ▶ Absence of necessities
- ▶ Untreated bedsores or injuries
- ▶ Medication issues
- ▶ Hunger/thirst
- ▶ Missed doctor’s appointments
- ▶ Malnourishment
- ▶ Denial of medical care

▶ Common indicators of self-neglect:

- ▶ Poor personal hygiene
- ▶ Malnourished
- ▶ Excessive weight loss
- ▶ Refusing medical treatment
- ▶ Not taking medication as prescribed

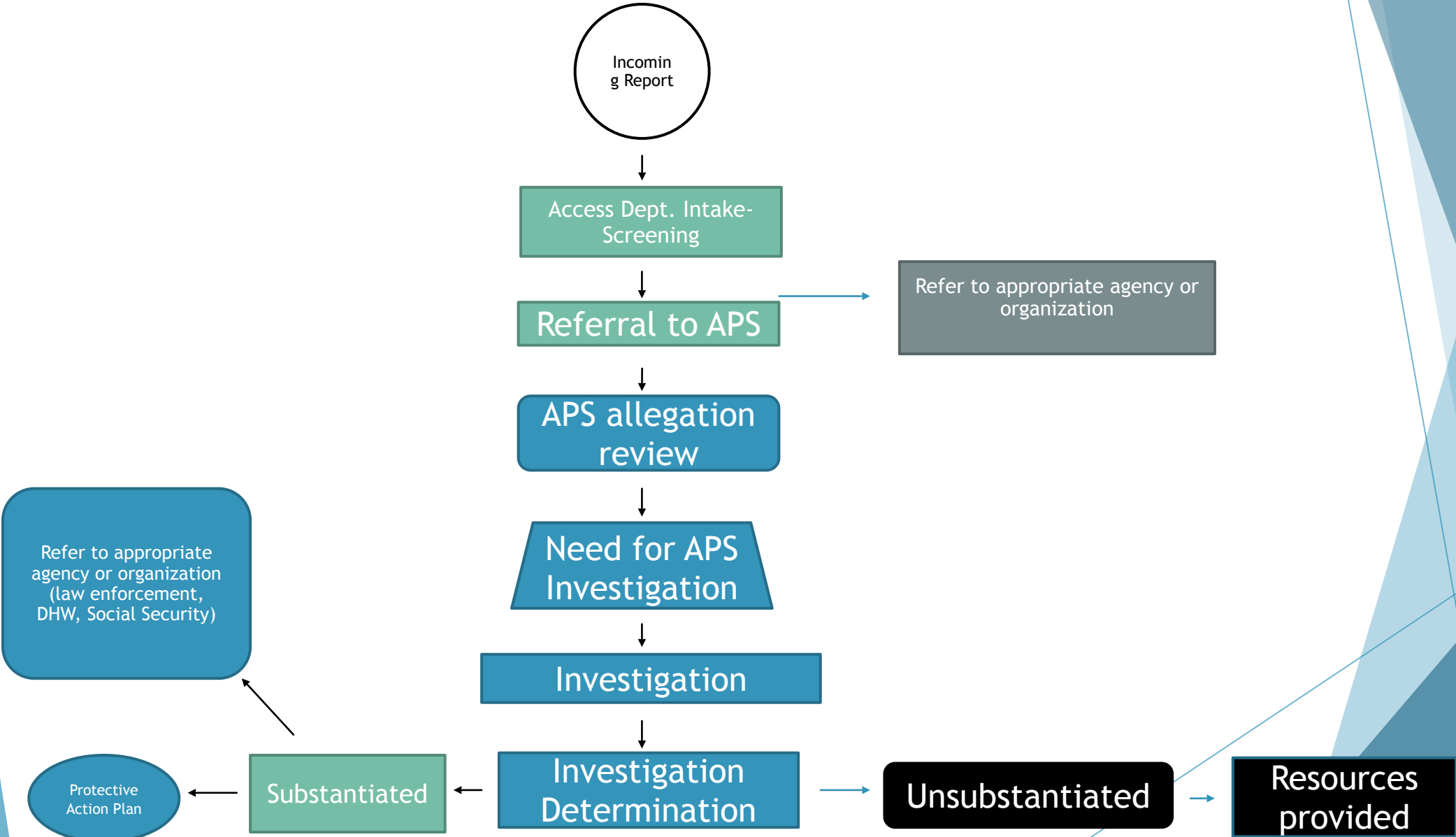


Idaho Code 39-5302(6) defines exploitation as, “an action which may include, but is not limited to, the unjust or improper use of a vulnerable adult’s financial power of attorney, funds, property, or resources by another person for profit or advantage.”

▶ Common indicators of exploitation:

- ▶ Caregiver overly interested in vulnerable adult’s financial situation
- ▶ Unusual bank activity
- ▶ Bank statements and cancelled checks no longer going to the vulnerable adult’s home
- ▶ Recent acquaintances expressing interest in the vulnerable adult’s finances
- ▶ Recent changes in ownership or property
- ▶ Changes in legal documents and the vulnerable adult does not understand
- ▶ Missing medications
- ▶ Vulnerable adult unaware of finances

# Adult Protective Services Referral & Investigation Process



# Resources Available

- ▶ Emergency food bags
- ▶ Home delivered meals
- ▶ Medication Assistance
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Homemaker Services
- ▶ Utility Assistance
- ▶ Home Repairs

# Self-determination

- ▶ The right of an adult to choose one's own course of action and/or outcomes without coercion.
  - ▶ Adult Protective Services must gain consent from the alleged vulnerable adult prior to providing APS services.

# Self-determination & Lifestyle Choices

- ▶ An alleged vulnerable adult has the right to refuse services from APS.
- ▶ Adult Protective Services can not force an adult to accept any services.
- ▶ An alleged vulnerable adult has the right to make lifestyle choices that others feel are objectionable.

# Confidentiality

- ▶ Idaho statute requires that all reports to the APS program and all subsequent case information remain confidential unless a court orders a release of information for good cause.

# Community Collaboration

- ▶ The APS program encourages collaboration with other professional groups and agencies that serve or investigate maltreatment of vulnerable adults.
- ▶ Collaboration helps ensure the best possible services and outcomes for the alleged vulnerable adult.
- ▶ Collaboration reduces the potential for further maltreatment to the alleged vulnerable adult.

# Community Collaboration

- ▶ Adult Protective Services must rely on it's community partners such as:
  - ▶ Medicaid
  - ▶ Medicare
  - ▶ DHW Licensing & Certification
  - ▶ Law Enforcement
  - ▶ Charities
  - ▶ Service Providers
  - ▶ Consumer's or family income and assets
    - ▶ Needed services may only be implemented when the adult has funds to pay for services or once eligibility for services is established.



# Community Collaboration

- ▶ Educational activities are provided to the community and professional groups through:
  - ▶ Facilitated training events
  - ▶ Participation in senior and community events
  - ▶ Media releases
  - ▶ Brochures and fraud alerts

# Adult Protective Services & Ombudsman

## Adult Protective Services

- ▶ Investigates allegations of abuse, neglect, self-neglect and exploitation.

## Ombudsman

- ▶ Advocate for the rights of long-term care residents

# Summary

## ▶ Who should report to APS?

- ▶ Any person who has reasonable cause to believe that an alleged vulnerable adult is being or has been abused, neglected or exploited.

## ▶ Who must report to APS?

- ▶ Physician
- ▶ Nurse
- ▶ Dentist
- ▶ Employee of a public or private health facility
- ▶ Employee of a state licensed or certified residential facility serving vulnerable adults
- ▶ Medical examiner
- ▶ Osteopath
- ▶ Social worker
- ▶ Police officer
- ▶ Pharmacist
- ▶ Physical therapist
- ▶ Home health or hospice workers
- ▶ Chiropractor

# Questions

If you have any additional questions about the Adult Protective Services Program or if you need to make a report to Adult Protective Services, then please contact the Southwest Idaho Area Agency on Aging @ (208)898-7060.

Mandatory reporters can make an Adult Protective Services report by going to [https://idaho.getcare.com/consumer/adult\\_protective\\_services\\_report.php](https://idaho.getcare.com/consumer/adult_protective_services_report.php)