

What are the signs of abuse?

Some signs are:

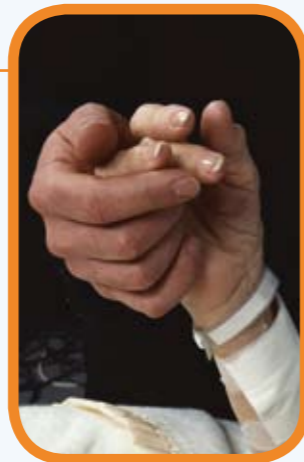
- Multiple bruising or fingermarks
- Injuries the person cannot give a good reason for
- Worsening health for no apparent reason
- Weight loss
- Inappropriate or inadequate clothing
- Withdrawal, or mood changes
- A carer who is unwilling to let other people have contact with the person
- An unexplained shortage of money.

Who should I contact?

If you have concerns about someone you know, please contact:

Housing and adult social care
London Borough of Camden
Phone 020 7974 4000
Textphone 020 7974 6866

Camden Police Community Safety Unit
Phone 020 8733 5665/6445/5940/6470
Email csu.camden@met.police.uk



For more copies of this leaflet, or if you would like the leaflet in a different language or format, call 020 7974 1416.

Housing and adult social care
London Borough of Camden
79 Camden Road
London NW1 9ES
Phone 020 7974 4000
Textphone 020 7974 6866
www.camden.gov.uk

Metropolitan Police
Holborn Police Station
Lamb's Conduit Street
London WC1N 3NR
Phone 020 8733 5665/6445/5940/6470

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Safeguarding adults (adult protection)





About this leaflet

We have produced this leaflet for people who work with vulnerable adults or have contact with them, to explain about adult protection and how vulnerable adults can be protected from abuse.

Relatives, neighbours and members of the public all have a responsibility to take action if they are worried about the safety or welfare of a vulnerable adult.

Contact a care manager or the police if you are worried about a vulnerable adult.

Vulnerable adults who are being abused can also ask for help themselves. Please see the back page for contact details.

What do we mean by 'vulnerable adult'?

A vulnerable adult is anyone aged 18 or over who is:

- In need of extra support services because of a physical, sensory or learning disability, mental health issue, age or an illness

and

- Unable to take care of him or herself or
- Unable to take care of him or herself against significant harm or serious exploitation.

Vulnerable adults might be older people, people with a visual or hearing impairment, severe physical illness, learning disability or mental health problem, people with HIV or AIDS, substance abusers, or carers.



A criminal offence

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 introduced a new criminal offence of ill-treatment or neglect of a person who lacks capacity. A person found guilty of such an offence may be liable to imprisonment for a term of up to five years.



What is abuse?

Abuse can be:

- Physical – hitting, smacking, pushing, shaking, or other physical harm
- Sexual – any sexual activity where a vulnerable adult cannot or does not consent
- Financial or material – such as fraud or theft, or using a vulnerable adult's property without their permission
- Emotional or psychological – such as shouting or swearing at or ignoring a vulnerable adult, or using insulting language about their age, ethnicity, culture, sexuality, gender or disability. This could also be referred to as discriminatory abuse
- Neglect and acts of omission – where a person allows a vulnerable adult to suffer by failing to care for them
- Institutional – repeated poor care of vulnerable adults through neglect or poor professional practice.

Who might be the abuser?

Vulnerable people can be abused by anyone:

- Relatives
- Family members
- Professional staff
- Paid or voluntary workers
- Other vulnerable adults
- Friends and associates
- People who deliberately target vulnerable people
- Strangers.

