

**726.8 Wanton neglect or nonsupport of a dependent adult.**

1. A caretaker commits wanton neglect of a dependent adult if the caretaker knowingly acts in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental, or emotional welfare of a dependent adult. Wanton neglect of a dependent adult is a serious misdemeanor.

2. A person who has legal responsibility either through contract or court order for support of a dependent adult and who fails or refuses to provide support commits nonsupport. Nonsupport is a class "D" felony.

3. A person alleged to have committed wanton neglect or nonsupport of a dependent adult shall be charged with the respective offense unless a charge may be brought based upon a more serious offense, in which case the charge of the more serious offense shall supersede the less serious charge.

4. For the purposes of [this section](#), "*dependent adult*" means a dependent adult as defined in [section 235B.2, subsection 4](#), and "*caretaker*" means a caretaker as defined in [section 235B.2, subsection 1](#).

[87 Acts, ch 182, §10](#)