

441—176.1 (235B) Definitions.

“Adult abuse” means either:

1. Any of the following as a result of the willful or negligent acts or omissions of a caretaker:
 - Physical injury to, or injury which is at variance with the history given of the injury, or unreasonable confinement, unreasonable punishment, or assault of a dependent adult.
 - The commission of a sexual offense under Iowa Code chapter 709 or Iowa Code section 726.2 with or against a dependent adult.
 - Exploitation of a dependent adult, which means the act or process of taking unfair advantage of a dependent adult or the adult’s physical or financial resources for one’s own personal or pecuniary profit, without the informed consent of the dependent adult, including theft, by the use of undue influence, harassment, duress, deception, false representation, or false pretenses.
 - The deprivation of the minimum food, shelter, clothing, supervision, physical or mental health care, and other care necessary to maintain a dependent adult’s life or health.
 - Sexual exploitation of a dependent adult by a caretaker. “Sexual exploitation” means any consensual or nonconsensual sexual contact with a dependent adult which includes but is not limited to kissing; touching of the clothed or unclothed inner thigh, breast, groin, buttock, anus, pubes, or genitals; or a sex act, as defined in Iowa Code section 702.17. “Sexual exploitation” includes the transmission, display, taking of electronic images of the unclothed breast, groin, buttock, anus, pubes, or genitals of a dependent adult by a caretaker for a purpose not related to treatment or diagnosis or as part of an ongoing assessment, evaluation or investigation. “Sexual exploitation” does not include touching which is part of a necessary examination, treatment, or care by a caretaker acting within the scope of the practice or employment of the caretaker; the exchange of a brief touch between the dependent adult and a caretaker for the purpose of reassurance, comfort, or casual friendship; or touching between spouses.
2. The deprivation of the minimum food, shelter, clothing, supervision, physical or mental health care, and other care necessary to maintain a dependent adult’s life or health as a result of the acts or omissions of the dependent adult.

“Appropriate evaluation or assessment” means that evaluation or assessment reasonably believed by the department to be warranted by the facts and circumstances of the case as reported.

“Assault” means “assault” as defined in Iowa Code section 708.1.

“At-risk adult” means an adult who, because of a significant impairment due to a physical or mental disability or both, is unable to meet essential daily needs without assistance and whose personal health or safety is at risk due to such impairments, the environment, substance abuse problems, a lack of services or social supports, a refusal to accept services, or other risk factors identified through an assessment.

“Caretaker” means a related or nonrelated person who has the responsibility for the protection, care, or custody of a dependent adult as a result of assuming the responsibility voluntarily, by contract, through employment, or by order of the court.

“Collateral sources” means any person or agency who is presently providing, either in a professional or paraprofessional capacity, service to the dependent adult, including, but not limited to, doctors, counselors, and public health nurses.

“Confidentiality” means the withholding of information from any manner of communication, public or private.

“Denial of critical care” exists when the dependent adult’s basic needs are denied or ignored to such an extent that there is immediate or potential danger of the dependent adult suffering injury or death, or is a denial of, or a failure to provide the mental health care necessary to adequately treat the dependent adult’s serious social maladjustment, or is a gross failure of the caretaker to meet the emotional needs of the dependent adult necessary for normal functioning, or is a failure of the caretaker to provide for the proper supervision of the dependent adult.

“Department” means the department of human services and includes the county and central offices of the department, unless otherwise specified.

“Dependent adult” means a person 18 years of age or older who is unable to protect the person’s own interests or unable to adequately perform or obtain services necessary to meet essential human needs, as a result of a physical or mental condition which requires assistance from another.

“Expungement” means the process of destroying dependent adult abuse information.

“Immediate danger to health or safety” means a situation in which death or severe bodily injury could reasonably be expected to occur without intervention.

“Immediately” means within 24 hours when referring to mandatory reporters reporting suspected abuse of a dependent adult.

“Individual employed as an outreach person” means a person who, in the course of employment, makes regular contacts with dependent adults regarding available community resources.

“Informed consent” (as used in Iowa Code paragraph 235B.2(5)“c”) means a dependent adult’s agreement to allow something to happen that is based on a full disclosure of known facts and circumstances needed to make the decision intelligently, i.e., knowledge of risks involved or alternatives.

“Minimum food, shelter, clothing, supervision, physical and mental health care, and other care” means that food, shelter, clothing, supervision, physical and mental health care, and other care which, if not provided, would constitute denial of critical care.

“Multidisciplinary team” shall mean a membership of individuals who possess knowledge and skills related to the diagnosis, assessment, and disposition of dependent adult abuse cases and who are professionals practicing in the disciplines of medicine, public health, social work, law, law enforcement and other disciplines relative to dependent adults. Members of the team shall include, but are not limited to, persons representing the area agencies on aging, county attorneys, health care providers, and others involved in advocating or providing services for dependent adults.

“Physical injury” means damage to any bodily tissue to the extent that the tissue must undergo a healing process in order to be restored to a sound and healthy condition, or damage to any bodily tissue to the extent that the tissue cannot be restored to a sound and healthy condition, or damage to any bodily tissue which results in the death of the person who has sustained the damage, or physical injury which is at variance with the history given of it.

“Preponderance of evidence” shall mean evidence which is of greater weight or more convincing than the evidence which is offered in opposition to it.

“Proper supervision” means that supervision which a reasonable and prudent person would exercise under similar facts and circumstances, but in no event shall a person place a dependent adult in a situation

that may endanger the dependent adult's life or health or cruelly punish or unreasonably confine the dependent adult.

"Registry" means the central registry for dependent adult abuse information established in Iowa Code Supplement section 235B.5.

"Report" means a verbal or written statement, made to the department, which alleges that dependent adult abuse has occurred.

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