

441—176.3(235B) Appropriate evaluation. Upon receipt of a dependent adult abuse report, the department shall conduct an intake sufficient to determine whether the allegation meets criteria and constitutes a report of dependent adult abuse as defined in Iowa Code section 235B.2.

176.3(1) Dependent adult abuse reports shall be evaluated when all of the following criteria are alleged to be met:

- a. There is a reasonable belief the person is a dependent adult.
- b. Dependent adult abuse as defined in Iowa Code section 235B.2 is suspected.
- c. The alleged person responsible is:

(1) A caretaker in reports of physical injury, assault, unreasonable confinement or cruel punishment of a dependent adult; commission of a sexual offense; exploitation; personal degradation; and deprivation of food, shelter, clothing, supervision, physical or mental health care and other care necessary to maintain life or health.

(2) The dependent adult in reports of deprivation of food, shelter, clothing, supervision, physical or mental health care and other care necessary to maintain life or health due to the adult's own acts or omissions pursuant to Iowa Code section 235B.2(5) "a"(2).

176.3(2) Nondependent adult abuse situations. The following are not dependent adult abuse situations:

a. A report of domestic abuse under Iowa Code chapter 236, Domestic Abuse, does not in and of itself constitute a report of dependent adult abuse.

b. Circumstances in which the dependent adult declines medical treatment if the dependent adult holds a belief or is an adherent of a religion whose tenets and practices call for reliance on spiritual means in place of reliance on medical treatment.

c. Circumstances in which the dependent adult's caretaker, acting in accordance with the dependent adult's stated or implied consent, declines medical treatment if the dependent adult holds a belief or is an adherent of a religion whose tenets and practices call for reliance on spiritual means in place of reliance on medical treatment.

d. Withholding and withdrawing of health care from a dependent adult who is terminally ill in the opinion of a licensed physician when the withholding and withdrawing of health care is done at the request of the dependent adult or at the request of the dependent adult's next-of-kin or guardian pursuant to the applicable procedures under Iowa Code chapter 125, 144A, 222, 229, or 633.

e. All persons legally incarcerated in a penal setting, either in a local jail or confined to the custody of the director of the department of corrections, when the allegation pertains to correctional staff as caretakers.

176.3(3) Reports of dependent adult abuse which are the result of the acts or omissions of the dependent adult shall be collected and maintained in the files of the dependent adult as assessment information only and shall not be included on the central registry. The central registry shall be notified as to the disposition of the assessment.

176.3(4) Confirmed, not registered. Reports of physical abuse, denial of critical care by a caretaker, or personal degradation that would otherwise be founded reports shall be considered confirmed, not registered reports if the abuse is determined to be minor, isolated, and unlikely to reoccur. These reports shall be assessments and shall not be included on the central abuse registry. Access to confirmed, not registered reports will be authorized pursuant to Iowa Code section 235B.6(3).

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