

# MAKE THE CALL

## TO HELP THOSE AT RISK OF ABUSE

During times of crisis, your eyes and ears are needed to help identify neighbors at risk of abuse. This abuse can occur face-to-face or online in the various forms listed below. You don't have to prove that abuse or neglect occurred. Suspicion is enough to make a call. If you have concerns about one or more of the signs below, **make the call**:

**Middlesex Department of Social Services**  
**804-758-2348**

### CHILDREN

#### NEGLECT

- Unmet medical needs
- Inadequate supervision
- Unsafe housing

#### PHYSICAL ABUSE

- Unexplained injuries

#### EMOTIONAL ABUSE

- Out-of-character and/or extreme behaviors
- Heightened watchfulness
- Difficulty concentrating
- Unexplained irritability

#### SEXUAL ABUSE

- Demonstration of sexual knowledge or behavior unusual for the child's age
- Child describes being sexually touched

#### EXPLOITATION

- Unexplained absences from school/activities
- Unexplained possession of extra money or gifts

### ADULTS

#### NEGLECT

- Unmet medical needs
- Malnourished/dehydrated
- Inadequate hygiene
- Soiled bedding/furniture
- Homelessness
- Lacks needed supervision

#### PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL ABUSE

- Multiple/severe bruises, welts, black eyes or burns
- Verbal assaults, threats, intimidation
- Restrained to furniture, locked in
- Fear reaction or mistrust of others

#### SEXUAL ABUSE

- Describes or suggests sexual abuse
- Depression or blunted affect
- Self-destructive or suicidal behavior

#### FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

- Suspicious signatures on check
- Depleted bank account
- Chronic failure to pay bills
- Another adult financially relies upon the older person
- Transfer of property or savings
- Sudden appearance of uninvolved relatives/friends

**Criteria for Adults:**  
Over age 60 OR  
disabled adults  
ages 18-59



