

# WHAT IS

# ADULT ABUSE?

Virginia law mandates providing protective services to adults. Adult Protective Services (APS) receives reports on adults ages 60 and older as well as incapacitated individuals age 18-59. APS investigates reports of adult abuse, neglect or exploitation and can arrange a wide variety of health, housing, social, and legal services to stop the abuse and prevent further mistreatment.

## TYPES OF ADULT ABUSE

There are a wide variety of abusive behaviors including:

- **PHYSICAL ABUSE** — the intentional infliction of physical pain or injury.
- **MENTAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE** — the intentional infliction of mental anguish by verbal assault, threat, intimidation, humiliation, or other means.
- **SEXUAL ABUSE** — unwanted sexual activity.
- **NEGLECT** — the lack of necessary assistance to keep physically and mentally healthy.
- **SELF-NEGLECT** — the failure to provide one's self with the necessities of life, such as food, clothing, shelter, needed medical care, and reasonable financial management.
- **FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION** — the illegal use of an adult's resources or property for another individual's profit or advantage.

## REPORTING ADULT ABUSE, NEGLECT OR EXPLOITATION

- To report suspected adult abuse, neglect or exploitation, contact your local department of social services or the 24-hour toll-free hot line at **1-888-832-3858**.
- If possible, provide the name, address and any other information about the adult whom you suspect is being abused, neglected or exploited.
- Reports may be made anonymously.

