



# MAHNOMEN COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES

## Guidelines for Prioritizing Reports for Investigation of Adult Maltreatment Reports As Directed by MN Statute 626.557

Mahnomen County Social Services developed the following Adult Protection Prioritization Guidelines as required per MN Statute 626.557 Subd. 10b for use when Mahnomen County Social Services is the Lead Investigative Agency for investigating Adult Protection or Emergency Protection Services in Adult Maltreatment Reports received by the Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center (MAARC). The response will be with the intent to prevent further maltreatment and for safeguarding the welfare of the maltreated Vulnerable Adult, per MN Statute 626.557 Subd. 10a.

Reports will be screened using the current Department of Human Services Structured Decision-Making Manual, SSIS Adult Protection Intake Assessment and Response Priority Decision Tool, and Adult Protection EPS definition and criteria of a Vulnerable Adult per MN Statute 626.5772, Subd. 21. At least one allegation must meet criteria per MN Statute 626.5572, Subd. 2, 9, or 17 for a report to be screened in for investigation. The Lead Investigative Agency (Mahnomen County Social Services) will respond to MAARC reports received per the outcome of the SSIS Adult Protection Intake Assessment and Response Priority Decision Tool and/or the Adult Protection EPS Intake Assessment Screening Decision Tool except for the following screening override options:

- a. An allegation of self-neglect can be resolved through case management or current services.
- b. The Vulnerable Adult is no longer in the state of Minnesota at the time of the report.
- c. The Vulnerable Adult is incarcerated at the time of the report.
- d. When there is no benefit to the Vulnerable Adult from Adult Protective Services or investigation.
- e. When the Vulnerable Adult is in a safe environment at the time of the screening of the report and the Vulnerable Adult will likely remain there for the next 48-72 hours, the screening override may be applied to modify the response time from 24 hours to 72 hours.
- f. Mahnomen County Social Services values a person's right to self-determination of medical care and treatment. Therefore, reports may not be investigated when the adult is not impaired in judgement or capacity by mental or emotional dysfunction or undue influence, has clearly expressed their desires and decision for refusing medical treatment or medication, and is able to articulate the potential consequences of their decision.
- g. Reports involving a Vulnerable Adult who is deceased at the time of the report, may be screened out. When there is a death of a Vulnerable Adult at the time of the MAARC report or while Adult Protective Services are being provided, Mahnomen County Social Services may consult with the Mahnomen County Attorney's Office, Law Enforcement, and members of the Multidisciplinary Team to review the circumstances and whether to open an investigation or continue one that is already open. Factors considered in this decision include but are not limited to the allegations of



# MAHNOMEN COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES

maltreatment, cause and time of death, alleged perpetrator, and involvement of law enforcement.

- h. Reports involving the abuse or neglect of one Vulnerable Adult to another Vulnerable Adult may be screened out if there is no benefit to the Vulnerable Adult for Adult Protective Case Management. If the Vulnerable Adult(s) have Case Managers, the report will be referred to Case Management to be addressed through risk mitigation, education, and care planning.
- i. Reports in which a minor is the Alleged Perpetrator may be screened out and a consultation or recommendation may be sought from Child Protective Services.
- j. Reports involving financial exploitation that does not result in deprivation of necessary food, clothing, shelter, or healthcare for the Vulnerable Adult, and does not involve financial loss of more than \$500, may be screened out.
- k. Reports involving a Vulnerable Adult that indicate no lack of capacity to make informed choices and financial exploitation allegation of “fraud/scams” may be screened out if there is not a benefit to the Vulnerable Adult for Adult Protective Case Management Services.
- l. Reports involving a Vulnerable Adult and a financial exploitation allegation based solely on an alleged perpetrator not paying a bill, may be screened out unless the financial exploitation allegation “results or is likely to result in detriment to the vulnerable adult”.
- m. When the allegation is significantly similar in nature to one investigated within the past year, and the Vulnerable Adult meets categorical criteria and not functional criteria, and that investigation determined the Vulnerable Adult is making an informed decision, the report may be screened out.
- n. If the report made contains allegations of harm or maltreatment and the Vulnerable Adult status is unclear based on the report received, Mahnomen County Social Services may choose to screen in the report for investigation in order to gather information on the potential Vulnerable Adult’s status. If it is found that the person does not meet the criteria for Vulnerable Adult status, the investigation will be closed.