



Health and Human Services

NATE BERTRAM

Director

213 S.E. 1st Avenue

Little Falls, Minnesota 56345-3196

General Info: 320-632-7800

Toll Free: 1-800-269-1464

Fax: 320-632-0225

www.co.morrison.mn.us

Morrison County will provide cost effective, high quality services to county residents in a friendly and respectful manner.

MORRISON COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Guidelines For Prioritizing Vulnerable Adult Reports For Investigation As directed by MN Statutes 626.5565 Subd. 9b

Morrison County Health and Human Services developed the following Adult Protection Prioritization Guidelines as required per MN Statute 626.557 Subd 10b for use when Morrison County Health and Human Services is the Lead Investigative Agency for Adult Protective Services and/or Emergency Protective Services in adult maltreatment reports received by 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 and the SSIS Adult Protection Intake Assessment and Response Priority and Adult Protection EPS Intake Assessment Screening decision tools. The Vulnerable Adult in the report must meet the criteria of a Vulnerable Adult per MN Statute 626.5572, Subd 21 and at least one allegation must meet criteria per MN Statute 626.5572, Subd 2, 9, and 17 for a report to be screened in for investigation. The Lead Agency 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 with the exceptions of the following screening override options:

- Self-neglect can be resolved through case management or current services.
- Vulnerable Adult is deceased at the time the report is received.
- Vulnerable Adult is no longer in the state of Minnesota at the time of the report.
- Vulnerable Adult is incarcerated at the time of the report. Morrison County Health and Human Services will inform the Morrison County Sheriff's Department on any reports of neglect or maltreatment received by MCSS involving vulnerable adult inmates while in jail.
- When there is no benefit to the Vulnerable Adult from adult protective services or investigation because maltreatment has been resolved with minimal risk of repeat maltreatment and/or no protection to this Vulnerable Adult or other Vulnerable Adult's from investigation of alleged perpetrator.
- Morrison County may not investigate reports that involves maltreatment of one vulnerable adult to another vulnerable adult.
- Morrison County may not investigate reports in which the alleged perpetrator is a minor.
- Cases alleging financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult may not be accepted for investigation unless the report demonstrates that there was a reasonable detriment to the Vulnerable Adult. The amount of the alleged loss of funds will or is likely to adversely deprive the vulnerable adult of necessary food, clothing, shelter, health and medical care.
- Reports made of alleged financial exploitation which resulted in a lack of payment to the person's residential facility for their services may be investigated only upon receipt of an eviction notice from the residential facility.
- Morrison County may screen out vulnerable adult reports with an allegation of financial exploitation by a scammer when a prior investigation with the vulnerable adult occurred in which it was determined that the vulnerable adult does not lack capacity to make their own decisions and has been provided education and resources on how to avoid future incidents. If additional information is given that indicates the vulnerable adult's mental capacity has changed, may consider screening in to determine VA status.

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- 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.
- When the Vulnerable Adult is in a safe environment at the time of the report being screened and the Vulnerable Adult will likely remain there for the next 48-72 hours, the screening override may be applied to modify the response from 24 hours to 72 hours.
- Morrison County Health and Human Services values a person's right to self-determination of medical care and treatment, therefore, may not investigate reports where the adult, who is not impaired in judgment or capacity by mental or emotional dysfunction or undue influence, has clearly expressed their desires and decision for refusing medical treatment/medication and is able to articulate the potential consequences of their decision.
- If the report made contains allegations of harm or maltreatment and the vulnerable adult status is unclear based on the report received, Morrison County may choose to screen in the report for investigation so additional information on the vulnerable adult status can be determined. If in the investigation, it is determined the person does not meet vulnerable adult criteria, the investigation will be closed.
- Morrison County Health and Human Services will consider number of reports received when making a screening decision if the reports consisted of the same adult and the maltreatment or vulnerable adult status remains questionable. The report may be screened in to assess either vulnerability or maltreatment.
- If criminal charges are likely and law enforcement requests adult protection to assist based on adult's functional leave, the report may be screened in.

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