



# Keeping people safe from abuse



## What is abuse?

Abuse is when a person does something to somebody that hurts physically, emotionally or causes distress.

This may be done on purpose, but sometimes the person who abuses may not realise what they are doing is wrong. This person could be someone you know, a friend or family member or it could be somebody you have never met before.

## The law tells us abuse can be:



### Physical

This is hurting someone. It could be a slap, kick, punch or bite. It may leave a mark but it might not.



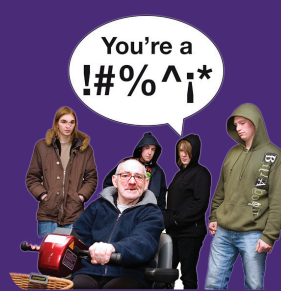
### Sexual

This is being touched somewhere you do not want to be touched or made to touch somebody else somewhere you do not want to touch them



### Financial

This is when somebody takes money or belongings, uses your money to pay for their own things or says that you have to give them your money, belongings or home.



### Discrimination

This is acting against someone because they are different



### Domestic abuse

This happens at home when someone you live with abuses you.



### Self-Neglect

This is when somebody chooses to not take very good care of themselves. They might not eat much or very well, they may choose not to wash or to not take medication.



## Safeguarding Adults and the Care Act

Under the law, Councils must make sure people with care and support needs can live safely.

This is called Safeguarding. **Safeguarding means stopping abuse.**

If a Council thinks someone is at risk from abuse they have to check what is happening if:

- a person has care needs
- and the person can't protect themselves

## How do I tell someone about abuse?

If you think an adult is being abused or neglected you should report it. Do this:

- Phone the Council on:  
**01905 768053**
- In an emergency call:  
**999**



- If you feel unsure about anything, there is more information about reporting abuse at:  
**[ylyc.worcestershire.gov.uk](http://ylyc.worcestershire.gov.uk)**



- You can find information about what to do if the person being abused is under 18 years go to:  
**[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20054/safeguarding\\_children](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20054/safeguarding_children)**

## What happens next?

If you have told somebody that you think someone else is being abused:



The Safeguarding Team will contact you. They will ask you what has happened.



Sometimes they will need to get more information to make sure you are safe. This is called a Section 42 enquiry.

They may just talk to you, but sometimes they will need to talk to a nurse, doctor, social worker or the police too.



- The Safeguarding Team will want to know what the person wants to happen.
- They will want to support the person to recover from what has happened.
- They will decide what to do about the person who may have hurt or abused the person.



If The Safeguarding Team do not need to take any more action they will keep people informed.

The Safeguarding Team may be able to tell you about other organisations that can help.

If you have reported that someone else has been abused



Your concerns will be listened to.



The Safeguarding Team will not be able to tell you much. This is because the details are about someone else. This information is private.