

## Adult Protective Services: Risk Assessment in APS

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### Assessing Risk Across Five (5) Domains

APS receives a call from a hospital discharge planner who just released Mr. Smith, who is 84 years old and lives alone. The discharge planner is concerned because Mr. Smith has been admitted to the hospital four times in the last 18 months for various problems, including two falls, a urinary tract infection, and dehydration. He is on medication for high blood pressure and diabetes. Mr. Smith has a daughter who lives several miles away. She drops by a few times a week to take him to appointments, shop, help with bill paying, and perform housekeeping tasks. The daughter wants to help, but she thinks Mr. Smith needs more help than she can provide and feels guilty she can't do more. Although Mr. Smith used to be active socially, he is not going out to see neighbors or to do his shopping as he used to do.

When an APS worker goes out to meet with Mr. Smith, he states that he has lived in his house for over sixty years. Memories of his marriage and life with his now deceased wife and raising their four children are all present in the house. He states his children have urged him to move into an assisted living facility but he does not want to because he likes living alone and wants to stay in his own home. Mr. Smith is cordial to the APS worker but tells him that he does not need help. He states the reason that he has stopped running errands and visiting friends is that he's afraid of falling again. However, he does not want anyone to know this because he's afraid his children will pressure him to move. When the APS worker asks about his need for help with personal care, he denies that he needs any help, even though he fell while getting out of the bathtub.

#### Assess Mr. Smith's risk level:

- Is Mr. Smith in immediate danger? How **soon** might he come to harm?
- Do you need to go out immediately? What are the consequences of delay? How **severe** might the harm be?
- What is the likelihood (or how **sure** are you) that Mr. Smith will be harmed without intervention?

#### What is Mr. Smith's level of risk (low, medium, or high)?

#### Identify the risk indicator(s):

- Physical
- Behavioral
- Environmental

#### Identify the risk factor(s) across the five (5) domains:

- Physical Health and Functional Status
- Behavioral Health Status and Capacity
- Living Environment Status
- Financial Status
- Social Status