

## Adult Protective Services: Risk Assessment in APS

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### Red Flag Scenarios

#### Scenario #1

A caseworker at an adult day health center called APS to report that a program participant, Maria Santos, has been coming to the program in dirty clothes, and with unpleasant body odor for the last week. The last two (2) days she has seemed confused and disoriented. Although she has mild dementia, she has always been clean, oriented, and friendly to other participants and staff. The APS worker investigated and found Maria still in bed at 11:30 am. Maria lives with her daughter, Sophie. Upon questioning, Maria explained that she had been unable to sleep the previous evening and was just getting off to a slow start. When the worker talked to Sophie, the daughter started to cry and said that she was working two (2) jobs on top of providing care to her mother and was feeling too tired and overwhelmed to get her mother up and ready when the van came to pick her up.

#### Scenario #2

A neighbor called APS to report that his 88-year-old neighbor, Mr. Woods, had not made his daily morning walk for three (3) days and had not left his house at all. Mr. Woods had told him recently that he had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and had seemed despondent. He had talked about being ready to “give it all up.” The neighbor had knocked on the door to see if he would like him to pick up anything for him at the supermarket. Mr. Woods did not answer and did not respond to phone calls either.

#### Scenario #3

An apartment manager called APS to report that an 84-year-old tenant, Mrs. Rasmussen, had not paid rent in four (4) months and the owner had initiated an eviction. When the manager tried to discuss the matter with Mrs. Rasmussen, she told him “I’m really bad with those things; my son makes all the money decisions”. The manager had attempted to contact the son multiple times, but he didn’t the return phone calls.

#### **Scenario #4**

APS received a report about Mary Newlon from her sister. Ms. Newlon's sister told the worker that her Mary "doesn't think right" and lives with a man who takes her SSI checks and slaps her around. Ms. Newlon's sister had not been able to reach Mary and was afraid that she is in serious trouble.

#### **Scenario #5**

APS received a call about Mrs. Allen from her daughter. Mrs. Allen is 93 years old and lives independently in an apartment. Since suffering a stroke a few years ago, Mrs. Allen has a home care provider, who is paid to come in twice a day to help her get up and dressed, prepare meals, and do the shopping. On a recent visit, the daughter found her mother still in bed at 2:00pm. The daughter was concerned that her mother was not being cared for properly. Sometimes when the home care provider tries to get her up, she is combative. Another daughter has control over Mrs. Allen's money and hired the home care provider. When the caller told her sister about her concerns, she said, "Mind your own business." Her repeated attempts to get her sister to find a new home care provider have been ignored.

#### **Scenario #6**

Mr. Blair has been living alone for the last fifteen years. His neighbors called APS concerned that he was not eating right and was losing weight. He also appeared to be increasingly confused. Upon investigating, the APS worker found that Mr. Blair had little food in his home. He said that he sent much of his savings to pay the interest on a sweepstakes prize he had won. As a result, he did not have much money left for food, but the situation will change once he receives his winnings.

#### **Scenario #7**

An apartment manager called APS to report that one of his tenants, Mary Anne, had recently been visited several times by her daughter who had just moved from out of state. After each visit, Mary Anne was quite upset. During the most recent visit, Mary Anne fell while her daughter was with her, and the manager suspected that the daughter may have shoved her.