

Statutory Definitions and Signs of Vulnerable Adult Abuse

Statutory Definitions	Signs
Abuse AS 47.24.900 (2 A,B) “The willful, intentional, or reckless, non-accidental and non-therapeutic infliction of physical pain, injury, or mental distress.”	▪ Verbal assaults, intimidation or threats ▪ Unexplained bruises, skin tears and any kind of injuries ▪ Unjustified physical or chemical restraints ▪ Unexplained stained, torn or bloody underwear; bruises or bleeding, pain or itching in genital or anal areas ▪ Stalking ▪ Domestic Violence ▪ Sexual assault
Abandonment AS 47.24.900 (1) “The desertion of a vulnerable adult by a caregiver.”	▪ Failure to stay with person in the Emergency Room or doctor’s office when the person is unable to communicate needs ▪ Legal decision-maker ignores requests by the assisted living home for purchasing needed clothing or personal supplies.
Exploitation AS 47.24.900 (7) “The unjust or improper use of another person or another person’s resources for one’s own profit or advantage.”	▪ Reports of “no food” or “not enough” food, money, needed supplies, medication, etc. ▪ Unwanted people have moved into the home ▪ Complaints that specific personal resources or monies are missing or misused ▪ Complaints of excessive unsubstantiated bills

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Neglect AS 47.24.900 (9) “The intentional failure by a caregiver to provide essential care or services to maintain the physical and mental health of the vulnerable adult.”	▪ Nutrition/Hydration – Inadequate provision of food or water ▪ Personal care – Fails to dress appropriate for weather conditions; fails to change soiled bedding ▪ Mobility care – Fails to assist with transfers; pressure ulcers are present ▪ Medical care/medication management – Fails to take to the doctor; does not administer meds as ordered ▪ Social needs – Isolates a person in their room; environment is lacking adequate mental stimulation or emotional support
Self-neglect AS 47.24.900 (13) “An act or omission by a vulnerable adult that results, or could result, in the deprivation of essential services necessary to maintain minimal mental, emotional, or physical health and safety.”	▪ Poor personal hygiene ▪ Inappropriate dress for weather conditions ▪ Evidence of health or safety hazards ▪ Inadequate provision of food or water ▪ Reports of no food or not enough food, money, needed supplies, medication, etc. ▪ Weight loss ▪ Pressure ulcers ▪ Receiving shut off notices