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## Introduction

The **Care Act 2014** provides a legal framework for adult safeguarding.

It places a statutory duty on Local Authorities to **carry out enquiries** (or cause others to do so) where an adult:

- a) Has needs for care and support
- b) Is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect, and
- c) As a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself

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## Aims of adult safeguarding

- Prevent harm and reduce risk of abuse or neglect to adults with care and support needs
- Stop abuse or neglect wherever possible
- Safeguard adults in a way that supports them making choices and having control about how they want to live
- Promote an approach that concentrates on improving life for the adults concerned.

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## Types of abuse

There are many types of abuse including:

- Physical abuse
- Domestic abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Psychological abuse
- Financial or material abuse
- Modern slavery encompasses
- Discriminatory abuse
- Organisational abuse
- Neglect and acts of omission; and
- Self-neglect

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## Recognising abuse

Workers across a wide range of organisations are well placed to **spot potential signs of abuse** and need to be vigilant. This includes health and social care, welfare, policing, high street banks, fire and rescue, trading standards, leisure services, faith groups and housing. National reviews have found that death or harm could have been prevented if people had acted on their concerns.

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## Worried about an adult?

If you are concerned that **an adult is vulnerable and suffering or at risk of abuse or neglect**, you can refer them to adult social care. **Consent is preferable but not needed** to make a referral if the person is at risk of harm.

The safeguarding process can facilitate the information sharing between all relevant agencies so that the risks can be fully understood, and partners can agree what action is required to protect the adult and reduce that risk.

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A Safeguarding Enquiry should always put the **person at the centre** of the process, this means seeking their **views and wishes**, throughout and ensuring they have support either through a friend or family member or an advocate.

**Sometimes, you may need to take action that is against the adult's wishes either to protect them or others.**

### Further Information

- [SSAB website](#)
- [Safeguarding Policy and procedures](#)
- [The Care Act](#)
- [Care and Support Statutory Guidance](#)

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## To make a referral

If there is immediate risk of harm to the person, then you should contact emergency services via 999.

**You can refer to Adult Social Care using the new online portal.** You can also ring **0161 206 0604** if you need to discuss your concerns. Outside of office hours, you can contact the emergency duty team on 0161 794 8888.

The decision to carry out a safeguarding enquiry does not depend on the person's eligibility for care and support.