



LAKE OF THE WOODS COUNTY

SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

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Lake of the Woods County Screening Priorities Adult Protection/Vulnerable Adults

11/01/2024

Time Lines: The agency will begin to investigate all allegations within the time limits listed below:

- 1) During business hours, the local Social Service agency shall conduct an immediate investigation for complaints that indicates that a vulnerable adult is in need of immediate care or protection. The need for protection is due to a life threatening situation or the adult is likely to experience physical injury due to abuse or abandonment. (after hours local law enforcement will respond)
- 2) The local Social Service agency or law enforcement shall begin the investigation within 24 hours when complaints allege that a vulnerable adult is not in need of immediate care or protection, but is allegedly being abused.
- 3) The local Social Service agency shall begin an investigation within 72 hours when complaints allege that a vulnerable adult is not in need of immediate care or in need of protection but is allegedly neglected.
- 4) In all situations listed above, the responses will be only when there is substantial evidence in the allegation or complaint.

Vulnerable Adult Maltreatment Investigation Priorities

Maltreatment reports for which Lake of the Woods County is the lead agency, will be screened taking into account the seriousness of the incident as well as prior allegations regarding the alleged perpetrator. The following is a general guide showing which reports will be assigned for investigation.

Physical Abuse Reports:

- 1) Injury which requires medical attention.
- 2) Visible injuries (bruises, abrasions, etc)
- 3) There is information that this or other vulnerable adults would be subject to additional harm.

- EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER -

Emotional/Verbal Abuse:

- 1) The vulnerable adult demonstrates behaviors that could be attributed to emotional abuse such as isolating, changes in behaviors or affect, self injury, unwillingness or inability to communicate and there being no other evident reason for the stated behavior.
- 2) There is information that this or other vulnerable adults would be subject to additional harm.

Sexual Abuse:

- 1) Non-consensual or coercive consensual sexual intercourse, oral sex, or touching/contact with the adult's breasts or genitalia.
- 2) Injury which requires medical attention, whether or not medical attention was sought.
- 3) There is information that this or other vulnerable adults would be subject to additional harm.

Involuntary Servitude:

- 1) Forced prostitution or heavy/inappropriate labor based on the adult's abilities.
- 2) There is information that this or other vulnerable adults would be subject to additional harm.

Neglect Reports:

- 1) The vulnerable adult was harmed while in the caregiver's care.
- 2) The adult was placed in a situation where there was significant risk of imminent or serious harm.
- 3) Information becomes available that indicates that alleged self neglect is actually caused by a person other than the vulnerable adult.
- 4) The vulnerable adult is currently engaging in behavior that creates a situation of posing a danger to self.
- 5) There is information that this or other vulnerable adults would be subject to additional harm.

Financial Exploitation:

- 1) The amount of the alleged loss of funds will adversely deprive the vulnerable adult.

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