



**POLK COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES**  
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## **POLK COUNTY ADULT PROTECTION PRIORIZATION GUIDELINES**

As directed by MN Statutes 626.5565 Subd. 9b

Polk County Social Services developed the following Adult Protection Prioritization Guidelines as required per [MN Statute 626.557 Subd 10b](#) for use when Polk County Social Services is the Lead Investigative Agency for Adult Protective Services and/or Emergency Protective Services in adult maltreatment reports received by Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center (MAARC). The response will be with the intent to prevent further maltreatment and for safeguarding the welfare of the maltreated vulnerable adult, per [MN Statute 626.557. Subd 10a](#).

Reports will be screened using the current MN Department of Human Services [Structured Decision Making and Standardized Tools – Guidelines and Procedures Manual](#) and the SSIS Adult Protection Intake Assessment and Response Priority and Adult Protection EPS Intake Assessment Screening decision tools. The Vulnerable Adult in the report must meet the criteria of a Vulnerable Adult per [MN Statute 626.5572, Subd 21](#) and at least one allegation must meet criteria per [MN Statute 626.5572, Subd 2, 9, and 17](#) for a report to be screened in for investigation. The Lead Agency will respond to MAARC reports received per the outcome of the SSIS Adult Protection Intake Assessment and Response Priority decision tool and/or the Adult Protection EPS Intake Assessment Screening decision tool with the exceptions of the following screening override options:

1. Self-neglect can be resolved through case management or other current formal/informal services.
2. Adult vulnerable to maltreatment is no longer in the State of Minnesota at the time of the report.
3. Adult vulnerable to maltreatment is incarcerated at the time of the incident/report.
4. Reports involving abuse/neglect of one vulnerable adult to another vulnerable adult may be screened out if there is no benefit to the vulnerable adult for adult protective services. If the vulnerable adult(s) have case manager(s), this will be referred to case management to address through risk mitigation, education, and care planning.
5. If there is no benefit to the adult vulnerable to maltreatment for adult protective services, reports in which a minor is the alleged perpetrator may be screened out and a consultation/recommendation may be sought from Child Protection Services (CPS).
6. If there is no benefit to the adult vulnerable to maltreatment for adult protective services, reports involving financial exploitation that does not result in deprivation of necessary food, clothing, shelter or healthcare for the adult vulnerable to maltreatment and involves financial loss less than \$500 may be screened out.
7. Reports involving an adult vulnerable to maltreatment and a financial exploitation allegation based solely on an alleged perpetrator not paying a bill(s) may be screened out unless the financial exploitation allegation “results or is likely to result in detriment to the vulnerable adult.”

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8. Reports involving only allegations of theft of narcotics or theft of property from an adult vulnerable to maltreatment may be screened out if no other allegation criteria is met and/or there is no benefit to the adult vulnerable to maltreatment for adult protective services. These reports will be referred to the local law enforcement agency or drug task force for potential criminal investigation/charges.
9. Polk County Social Services values a person's right to self-determination of medical care and treatment, therefore, will not investigate reports where the adult, who is not impaired in judgment or capacity by mental or emotional dysfunction or undue influence, has clearly expressed their desires and decision for refusing medical treatment/medication and is able to articulate the potential consequences of their decision.
10. If there is no benefit to the adult vulnerable to maltreatment from adult protective services or investigation because maltreatment has been resolved prior to or during Intake or with minimal risk of repeat maltreatment.
11. When the allegation is significantly similar in nature to one investigated within the past year, and the adult vulnerable to maltreatment meets categorical criteria and not functional criteria, and that investigation determined the adult vulnerable to maltreatment is making an informed decision, the report may be screened out.
12. When the adult vulnerable to maltreatment is in a safe environment at the time of the report being screened and the adult vulnerable to maltreatment will likely remain there for the next 48-72 hours, the screening override may be applied to modify the response from 24 hours to 72 hours.
13. If the report made contains allegations of harm or maltreatment and the vulnerable adult status is unclear based on the report received, Polk County may choose to screen in the report for investigation to gather additional information on the vulnerable adult's status. If in the investigation, it is determined the person does not meet vulnerable adult criteria, the investigation will be closed.
14. Reports involving an adult vulnerable to maltreatment who is deceased at the time of the report may be screened out. When there is a death of an adult vulnerable to maltreatment at the time of the MAARC report or while Adult Protective Services are being provided, Polk County Social Services may consult with the Polk County Attorney's Office, Law Enforcement and members of the Multidisciplinary Team to review the circumstances and whether or not to open an investigation or continue one that is already open. Factors to be considered will be the maltreatment allegation, cause and time of death, alleged perpetrator and law enforcement involvement.
15. If there is no benefit to an adult vulnerable to maltreatment for adult protective services, reports requesting an emergency Guardianship/Conservatorship may be screened out when Guardianship/Conservatorship is not necessary to protect the vulnerable adult from maltreatment and less restrictive alternatives have not been exhausted.

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