

TERMS

Adult Protective Services (APS): Adult protective services (APS) are offered by county or tribal agencies to safeguard the adult vulnerable to maltreatment and prevent further harm from maltreatment. APS includes assessment and engagement with the adult and their supports to stop, prevent, or reduce risk of maltreatment. APS involves offering and arranging health care, supervision, counselling and social services including food, shelter, or clothing necessary to maintain or attain the adult's health, safety or comfort. The goal of APS is safety and dignity for the adult. APS safety planning prevents maltreatment, serious injury, loss of health, or death. APS may include involuntary interventions when necessary to prevent serious harm including seeking authority to remove an adult who is vulnerable, seeking a restraining order, or arranging for the appointment or replacement of a guardian or conservator. APS are also offered to adults who are vulnerable and alleged to have been sexually assaulted and who have not received a sexual assault examination. MN Statute 626.557 Subd 10.

Categories of APS

EPS: County is responsible to assess need for emergency APS for MAARC EPS notifications.

LIA: County is responsible for APS when County is the LIA for a MAARC report.

Another LIA requests APS: LIA (another county, DHS, MDH) responsible for a MAARC report investigation or assessment requests APS related to a MAARC report.

APS may also refer to the lead investigative agency responsible for assessment when assessment for the alleged maltreatment is under the jurisdiction of a county or tribal agency.

Agency: References either county agencies responsible for APS essential human service program administration, or tribal agencies providing APS.

Assess: To initiate intake and make initial disposition using information in the MAARC report and other information known to the county to establish the basis of vulnerability of the adult and if the alleged incident may be maltreatment and then to assess EPS or LIA intake response priority time. The EPS standardized intake tool guides APS screening assessment for initial disposition of MAARC EPS notifications. The SDM® Intake tool guides APS screening assessment for initial disposition for MAARC referrals and referrals for APS by another LIA. Services and consultation based on the assessment may be offered to the reporter or the individual who is the subject of the report, for referrals not accepted for APS.

Activities of daily living (ADLs): Activities associated with personal care, including personal hygiene, bathing, eating, dressing, toilet use, walking, transferring from one surface to another, moving between locations, and bed mobility.

Assessment With Determination: Investigation is conducted and fact gathering for assessment of the safety, strengths and needs for the adult who is vulnerable and primary support person, if applicable, to engage the person and their support(s) in safety planning and service

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interventions to stop, prevent and reduce risks of maltreatment based on the assessment. Facts are also gathered to make determination of responsibility of a person alleged responsible for maltreatment. Determination is entered when the assessment is complete. Assessment is closed and interventions are entered when the individual is safe, or conditionally safe. Assessment with determination is not voluntary. Final determination may be “substantiated, false, or inconclusive”.

Assessment With No Determination: Investigation is conducted and fact gathering for assessment of the safety, strengths and needs for the adult who is vulnerable and primary support person. , If applicable, engage the person and their support(s) in safety planning and service interventions to stop, prevent, and reduce risks of maltreatment based on the assessment. Determination is entered when the assessment is complete. Assessment is closed and interventions are entered when the individual is safe, or conditionally safe. Assessment with no determination is not voluntary. Final determination may be “no determination – adult protective services are needed or no determination – adult protective services not needed”.

Authorized Representative: The individual with authority to apply for and complete ongoing eligibility paperwork for economic benefits or medical assistance.

Capacity: The ability, capability, or fitness to do something; a legal right, power, or competency to perform some act. An ability to comprehend both the nature and consequences of one's acts ([The Free Dictionary](#)).

Caregiver: An individual, facility, licensed provider, or personal care assistant (PCA) paid by medical assistance who has responsibility for all or a portion of the care of an adult who is vulnerable either voluntarily, by contract, or by agreement. Caregiver does not include a family member or support person who is unpaid, or who has assumed responsibility for incidental care not associated with harm from neglect. (MN Statute 626.5572, Subd. 4).

Categorical adult who is vulnerable: An adult who is a resident or inpatient of a facility, or who receives home and community based services licensed by the Minnesota Department of Health or the Minnesota Department of Human Services, or who receives personal care assistance (PCA) from a person or organization that exclusively offers, provides, or arranges for personal care assistance services under the medical assistance program (MN Statute 626.5572, Subd. 21[a][1–3]). Excludes outpatient services for treatment of chemical dependency or mental illness, and inpatient services provided through the Minnesota sex offender program on a court hold order for commitment, or to persons committed as sexual psychopathic personalities or as sexually dangerous persons under chapter 253B.

Client: The adult who is vulnerable for whom an assessment or service case has been opened for adult protection services (APS).

Common entry point: “Common entry point” means the entity responsible for receiving reports of alleged or suspected maltreatment of an adult who is vulnerable under MN Statute 626.5572 Subd. 5 from mandated reporters and the public. The Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center

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(MAARC) is the common entry point designated by the Commissioner of Human Services. MN Statute 626.557 Subd. 9.

Consent:

Informed Consent or Informed Decision Making: Ability to make a decision which includes: understanding the issue, options for decision, and consequences of the option selected, choosing an option, evaluating the outcome and ability to modify decision based on the person's evaluation. Definition of consent for criminal sexual conduct is different. People who may not be able to exercise informed consent, may be able to make an informed decision to select a surrogate or supporter for decision making.

Criminal sexual abuse: A person who is mentally incapacitated or physically helpless may be the victim of criminal sexual conduct (MN Statute 609.341, Subd. 4a-b) regardless of ability to consent.

Conservatorship: A conservator is someone who has been given legal authority by a court to handle the financial affairs of an individual who is unable to manage his or her own finances. A person subject to conservatorship is a person who has a conservator. The court may appoint a conservator when it has been determined that an individual is not able to manage his or her own finances, usually due to a medical condition such as a developmental disability, dementia, brain injury or stroke and there are assets to manage and no less restrictive alternatives are available such as informal supports or power of attorney. The conservator acts as an agent of the court. The conservator has a fiduciary responsibility to conserve and manage the person subject to conservatorship's estate and is accountable to the court for the management of the estate. MN Statute 524.5-401.

Current danger: The circumstances of an adult who is vulnerable, as described in an adult maltreatment report, suggesting that injury or death could occur within the short term (within a week).

Detriment: Detriment means harm from financial exploitation, including loss of trust, assets or property and includes current harm as well as potential for future harm, if the maltreatment continues without intervention. Facts or evidence associated with detriment are not required to accept or screen-in a report for assessment. Detriment to the adult who is vulnerable from financial exploitation is determined through assessment with determination and identified through the final disposition decision of the allegation as financial exploitation.

Emergency Adult Protective Services (EPS): Emergency adult protective services are adult protective services (APS) offered and arranged by the county responsible for the MAARC EPS notification (MN Statute 626.557 Subd 10.) Emergency adult protective services (EPS) notifications are made by the Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center (MAARC) to the county where the adult who is vulnerable is located when there is an immediate need to safeguard the life and health of a VA is assessed at MAARC. Minnesota Statutes 626.557 Subd. 9a. EPS is a

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notification of an assessed need for emergency social services and is different than need for law enforcement or emergency medical responders. APS may request 911 emergency medical response or law enforcement assistance and cooperation in the provision of EPS.

Emotional abuse: Conduct which is not an accident or therapeutic conduct, which produces or could reasonably be expected to produce emotional distress including, but not limited to, use of repeated or malicious oral, written, or gestured language toward an adult who is vulnerable or the treatment of an adult who is vulnerable which would be considered by a reasonable person to be disparaging, derogatory, humiliating, harassing, or threatening; use of any aversive or deprivation procedure, unreasonable confinement, or involuntary seclusion, including the forced separation of the adult who is vulnerable from other persons against the will of the adult who is vulnerable or the legal representative of the adult who is vulnerable; and use of any aversive or deprivation procedures for persons with developmental disabilities or related conditions not authorized under section 245.825 (MN Statute 626.5572, Subd. 2).

Fiduciary obligation: A fiduciary obligation may be considered to exist whenever there is a relationship of trust in which one person is superior to the other (Black's Law Dictionary)(STATE of Minnesota v. CAMPBELL; 2008).

Financial exploitation: (a) In breach of a fiduciary obligation recognized elsewhere in law, including pertinent regulations, contractual obligations, documented consent by a competent person, or the obligations of a responsible party under section 144.6501, a person: (1) Engages in unauthorized expenditure of funds entrusted to the actor by the adult who is vulnerable which results or is likely to result in detriment to the adult who is vulnerable; or (2) Fails to use the financial resources of the adult who is vulnerable to provide food, clothing, shelter, health care, therapeutic conduct, or supervision for the adult who is vulnerable, and the failure results or is likely to result in detriment to the vulnerable adult. (b) In the absence of legal authority a person: (1) Willfully uses, withholds, or disposes of funds or property of an adult who is vulnerable; (2) Obtains for the actor or another the performance of services by a third person for the wrongful profit or advantage of the actor or another to the detriment of the adult who is vulnerable; (3) Acquires possession or control of, or an interest in, funds or property of an adult who is vulnerable through the use of undue influence, harassment, duress, deception, or fraud; or (4) Forces, compels, coerces, or entices an adult who is vulnerable against their will to perform services for the profit or advantage of another. (c) Nothing in this definition requires a facility or caregiver to provide financial management or supervise financial management for an adult who is vulnerable except as otherwise required by law (MN Statute 626.5572, Subd. 9). Harm from financial exploitation is when the incident may be criminally investigated by law enforcement, or involves another form of maltreatment in addition to exploitation, or when the financial exploitation is not being criminally investigated or prosecuted, but violated the adult's trust, values or culture.

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Functional adult who is vulnerable: An adult who has impaired ability (mental, physical, emotional) to provide adequately for his/her own necessary food, shelter, health care or supervision without assistance AND because of this condition has an impaired ability to protect self from maltreatment (MN Statute 626.5572, Subd. 21[a][4]).

Guardianship: A legal arrangement under which a one person, a guardian who is appointed by a court, has the legal right and duty to care for another, the ward, because of the person subject to guardianship's inability to legally act on his or her own behalf due to minority or mental or physical incapacity. Black's Law Dictionary 707 (6th ed. 1990). A guardian powers and duties are limited to those identified in the court order (MN Statute 524.5-313). People with a guardian retain all rights not granted by the court to the guardian and retain rights to vote, marry, refuse medical care and to uncensored communication and visit with persons of their choice unless restricted by the court.

Harm: The adult who is vulnerable is more likely than not to immediately experience any of the following due to suspected maltreatment: injury or condition requiring medical attention, bone fracture or dislocation, internal injury, head injury, loss of consciousness, lacerations to tendons or organs, 2nd or 3rd degree burns, complications from burns, 2nd or 3rd degree frostbite, complications from frostbite, loss of teeth, injury to the eye, ingestion of harmful objects or substances, near drowning, heat exhaustion or sunstroke, irreversible immobility, poisoning, suicide, or death. Financial exploitation when the incident may be criminally investigated by law enforcement, or involves another form of maltreatment in addition to exploitation, or when the financial exploitation is not being criminally investigated or prosecuted, but violated the adult's trust, values or culture.

Imminent harm: When circumstances of the adult who is vulnerable, as described in the MAARC report, suggest that loss of health, serious injury or death could occur within a short time (within a week).

Immediate/Immediately: As soon as possible, but no longer than 24 hours. MN Statute 626.5572 Subd. 10.

Incapacitated person: Legal determination by the court. An individual who, for reasons other than being a minor, is impaired to the extent of lacking sufficient understanding or capacity to make or communicate responsible personal decisions, and who has demonstrated deficits in behavior which evidence an inability to meet personal needs for medical care, nutrition, clothing, shelter, or safety, even with appropriate technological assistance (MN Statute 524.5-102, Subd. 6).

Incidental care: Care provided voluntarily, by agreement or contract, to an adult who is vulnerable, by a caregiver who is a family, friend, or informal support person to an adult who is vulnerable and the incident is related to an allegation that is not criminal and that did not result in harm.

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Informal caregiver: Informal or primary caregivers are family, friends, neighbors and others who provide services and assistance to person without reimbursement for the services.

([Minnesota Long-Term Care Consultation Services Program](#))

Instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs): Activities associated with daily living including home management, washing dishes, making beds, cleaning, laundry, grocery shopping, meal preparation, transportation, telephone use, managing finances or medical care.

Inter-agency Agreement: An agreement made between APS agencies to accept jurisdiction for MAARC report(s) outside of the MAARC referral guidelines established by the commissioner. The agreement may be pre-arranged and include specific criteria, or may be a one-time agreement for a single report.

Interested Person: A person designated in writing by the adult who is vulnerable to act on behalf of the adult who is vulnerable, or a legal guardian or conservator or other legal representative, a proxy or health care agent appointed under chapter 145B or 145C, or an individual who is related to the adult who is vulnerable, as defined in section 245A.02, subdivision 13. (MN Statute 626.557 Subd. 9d (d)).

Investigation: Fact gathering, as authorized under MN Statute 626.557, conducted by a lead investigative agency during an assessment with determination, or assessment with no determination, related to the safety, strengths and needs of the adult who is vulnerable for safety planning and service intervention to stop, prevent, and reduce risks of maltreatment. Investigation also includes fact gathering conducted by the lead investigative agency to make a determination of responsibility of a person alleged responsible when an assessment with determination is conducted.

Lead Investigative Agency (LIA): Primary administrative agency responsible for investigating reports made under section 626.557.

- The [Department of Health](#) is the lead agency for facilities which are licensed or are required to be licensed as hospitals, home care providers, nursing homes, residential care homes, boarding care homes, or residential facilities that are also federally certified as intermediate care facilities that serve people with developmental disabilities.
- The [Department of Human Services](#) is the lead agency for the programs licensed or required to be licensed for home and community based services including adult day care, adult foster care, programs for people with developmental disabilities, mental health programs, or chemical health problems.
- The [county social service agency](#) or its designee is the lead agency for all other reports, including reports involving adults who are vulnerable to maltreatment receiving services from an unlicensed personal care provider organization under section 256B.0659 (MN Statute 626.5572 Subd. 13). The county agency responsible is determined using guidelines from the commissioner. MN Statute 626.557 Subd. 9a.(5).

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Tribal agencies may be designated responsible for adult protective services.

Loss of Health: The adult who is vulnerable current health status will be unable to be maintained due to suspected maltreatment and the adult who is vulnerable will more likely than not to immediately experience serious injury or decreased functional ability, organ damage or a health condition that will require immediate medical care by a physician. Examples: infection, illness, hyperthermia; malnutrition; dehydration; toxic substance or gas; environmental hazard such as exposed electrical wires.

Maltreatment: Abuse as defined in subdivision 2, neglect as defined in subdivision 17, or financial exploitation as defined in subdivision 9 (MN Statute 626.5572, Subd. 15).

Mandated Reporter: Professionals required to report maltreatment of an adult who is vulnerable to MAARC. Includes social services; law enforcement; educators; professionals engaged in the care of adults who are vulnerable; service providers licensed by DHS or MDH, enrolled Medical Assistance providers, medical examiner or coroners.

Medication diversion: Taking medication from its intended legal recipient and using it for illicit purposes, e.g., personal use or sale.

Medication misuse: Using medications in ways other than those prescribed or recommended by a health professional. This includes overuse, underuse, or erratic use, e.g., using at irregular intervals, using medicine prescribed for someone else, using drugs in combinations that cause problems, or drinking alcohol in combination with drugs for which alcohol is contraindicated. This term includes prescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs, and herbal and dietary supplements.

Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center (MAARC): The designated statewide single common entry point (CEP) for accepting reports of suspected maltreatment of adults who are vulnerable under MN Statute 626.555 Subd. 9.

Neglect by a caregiver: (a) The failure or omission by a caregiver to supply an adult who is vulnerable with care or services, including but not limited to food, clothing, shelter, health care, or supervision which is: (1) Reasonable and necessary to obtain or maintain the adult who is vulnerable physical or mental health or safety, considering the physical and mental capacity or dysfunction of the vulnerable adult;

and

(2) Which is not the result of an accident or therapeutic conduct. (b) The absence or likelihood of absence of care or services, including but not limited to food, clothing, shelter, health care, or supervision necessary to maintain the physical and mental health of the adult who is vulnerable which a reasonable person would deem essential to obtain or maintain the adult

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who is vulnerable health, safety, or comfort considering the physical or mental capacity or dysfunction of the adult who is vulnerable (MN Statute 626.5572, Subd. 17).

A failure or omission by a caregiver that results in the deprivation of essential services or supports necessary to maintain the mental, emotional, or physical health, comfort or safety of the adult who is vulnerable. Use this category if there is a responsibility under a MDH or DHS license or as a PCA or PCPO, payment, or contract or agreement between the adult who is vulnerable and the person alleged responsible. If this does not exist, review self-neglect report type. (Note: does not include situations when the adult who is vulnerable refuses assistance). [Structured Decision Making and Standardized Tools](#)

Person Alleged Responsible (PAR): Individual person, or licensed provider, alleged to have maltreated the adult who is vulnerable. The PAR does not have to be an individual known to the adult who is vulnerable. Neglect is the only allegation for which the PAR is alleged to be in a caregiving relationship with the adult who is vulnerable.

Physical abuse: (a) An act against an adult who is vulnerable that constitutes a violation of, an attempt to violate, or aiding and abetting a violation of:

(1) Assault in the first through fifth degrees as defined in sections 609.221 to 609.224 (great bodily harm, assault with a dangerous weapon, substantial bodily harm, bias crimes, and assaults intended to cause fear of immediate bodily harm or death); (b) Conduct which is not an accident or therapeutic conduct as defined in this section, which produces or could reasonably be expected to produce physical pain or injury or emotional distress including, but not limited to, the following: (1) Hitting, slapping, kicking, pinching, biting, or corporal punishment of an adult who is vulnerable (MN Statute 626.5572, Subd. 2).

Power of Attorney (POA): A fiduciary appointed by the person (adult who is vulnerable) and can be revoked by the person (adult who is vulnerable). The duty of a POA is to exercise their power in the same manner as an ordinarily prudent person would in their own affairs and shall have the interests of the principal (adult who is vulnerable) utmost in mind MN Statute 523.21.

Recent Sexual Assault: “Recent” can describe a time period of up to several weeks after the vulnerable adult is alleged to have experienced a sexual assault with penetration, or with a potential injury, for which the adult who is vulnerable has not received medical attention.

Responsible Party: (Under MN Statute 144.6501) Agrees to apply the adult who is vulnerable income and assets to pay for the care, usually applies to nursing home care or contract for services.

Self-neglect: An act or omission by an adult who is vulnerable that results or could result in the deprivation of essential services or supports necessary to maintain his/her minimum mental, emotional, or physical health, safety, or comfort (MN Statute 626.5572, Subd. 17). Self-neglect

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may include impaired ability to manage and protect property and assets. ([Structured Decision Making and Standardized Tools](#))

Serious Harm: The adult who is vulnerable is more likely than not to immediately experience any of the following due to suspected maltreatment: injury or condition requiring medical attention, bone fracture or dislocation, internal injury, head injury, loss of consciousness, lacerations to tendons or organs, 2nd or 3rd degree burns, complications from burns, 2nd or 3rd degree frostbite, complications from frostbite, loss of teeth, injury to the eye, ingestion of harmful objects or substances, near drowning, heat exhaustion or sunstroke, irreversible immobility, poisoning, suicide, or death,.

Serious Injury: May be any of the following: bone fracture or dislocation, internal injury, head injury, loss of consciousness, lacerations to tendons or organs, 2nd or 3rd degree burns, complications from burns, 2nd or 3rd degree frostbite, complications from frostbite, loss of teeth, injury to the eye, ingestion of harmful objects or substances, near drowning, heat exhaustion or sunstroke, irreversible immobility, poisoning, suicide, sexual assault, death or injury requiring medical attention, injury considered serious by a physician.

Sexual abuse: Contact or interaction of a sexual nature by a licensed provider, or contact or interaction of a sexual nature involving an adult who is vulnerable with or without his/her informed consent (MN Statute 626.5572, Subd. 2[a][4] and Subd. 2[c]). If the adult who is vulnerable is mentally incapacitated or physically helpless, the allegation may be criminal regardless of ability to consent. Consent requires a freely given present agreement. Consent does not mean the existence of a prior or current social relationship or that the vulnerable adult failed to resist (MN Statute 609.341, Subd. 4a-b). Allegations may not be civil sexual abuse when the adult who is vulnerable has the ability to give informed consent and is not unduly influenced, or if the person alleged responsible is a caregiver and the adult who is vulnerable, who is not unduly influenced, gives informed consent for a sexual relationship that existed prior to the caregiving relationship.

- Physical contact of a sexual nature. This includes rape, fondling, or caressing of the adult who is vulnerable by another person, directly or through clothing. Include any penetration or attempted penetration with a body part, including intercourse, cunnilingus, fellatio, or anal intercourse.
- Physical contact of a sexual nature involving an object. This includes penetration or touching of the adult who is vulnerable with an object, including bodily fluids.
- Sexual utilization of vulnerable adult for gratification of others. This includes use of the adult who is vulnerable for the purposes of prostitution and other forms of sexual gratification, such as posting explicit photos/videos of the adult who is vulnerable on the

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Internet or electronic devices; or allowing the adult who is vulnerable to be viewed by others for sexual gratification (e.g., dancing/stripping).

Sexual abuse (criminal): (a) Criminal sexual conduct defined in 609.342 includes sexual penetration, regardless of consent, when the victim has: cause to have reasonable fear of bodily harm, a weapon or accomplice is involved, injury results, force or coercion is used, or the victim is cognitively impaired or physical helpless.

(b) "Sexual contact," for the purposes of sections 609.343, subdivision 1, clauses (a) to (f), and 609.345, subdivision 1, clauses (a) to (e) and (h) to (o), includes any of the following acts committed without the complainant's consent, except in those cases where consent is not a defense, and committed with sexual or aggressive intent:

- (i) The intentional touching by the actor of the complainant's intimate parts; or (ii) The touching by the complainant of the actor's, the complainant's, or another's intimate parts effected by a person in a position of authority, or by coercion, or by inducement if the complainant is under 13 years of age or mentally impaired; or
- (iii) The touching by another of the complainant's intimate parts effected by coercion or by a person in a position of authority; or
- (iv) In any of the cases above, the touching of the clothing covering the immediate area of the intimate parts; or
- (v) The intentional touching with seminal fluid or sperm by the actor of the complainant's body or the clothing covering the complainant's body.

(c) "Sexual contact," for the purposes of sections 609.343, subdivision 1, clauses (g) and (h), and 609.345, subdivision 1, clauses (f) and (g), includes any of the following acts committed with sexual or aggressive intent:

- (i) The intentional touching by the actor of the complainant's intimate parts;
- (ii) The touching by the complainant of the actor's, the complainant's, or another's intimate parts;
- (iii) The touching by another of the complainant's intimate parts;
- (iv) In any of the cases listed above, touching of the clothing covering the immediate area of the intimate parts; or
- (v) The intentional touching with seminal fluid or sperm by the actor of the complainant's body or the clothing covering the complainant's body.

Sexual penetration: Means any of the following acts committed without the complainant's consent, except in those cases where consent is not a defense, whether or not emission of semen occurs: (1) Sexual intercourse, cunnilingus, fellatio, or anal intercourse; or (2) Any intrusion, however slight, into the genital or anal openings: (i) Of the complainant's body by any part of the actor's body or any object used by the actor for this purpose; (ii) Of the

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complainant's body by any part of the body of the complainant, by any part of the body of another person, or by any object used by the complainant or another person for this purpose, when effected by a person in a position of authority, or by coercion, or by inducement if the child is under 13 years of age or mentally impaired; or

(iii) Of the body of the actor or another person by any part of the body of the complainant or by any object used by the complainant for this purpose, when effected by a person in a position of authority, or by coercion, or by inducement if the child is under 13 years of age or mentally impaired.

SSIS: The State of Minnesota's electronic records system; Social Services Information System.

Structured Decision Making® (SDM®) system: Assessment system comprised of research based and structured assessments designed to provide workers with a simple, objective, and reliable framework to assess individuals involved in APS at critical decision points in the life of a case and to provide managers with information for improved planning, evaluation, and resource allocation. SDM® support decisions and do not replace professional judgement.

Standardized Decision Tool: Tools made available by the commissioner for required use by county agencies for supporting APS decisions. Tools include: EPS Intake, Intake, Initial and Final Safety; Strengths and Needs assessment. Standardized tools include the SDM® system. Tools support decisions and do not replace professional judgement.

Substance abuse/dependency: The maladaptive pattern of alcohol and/or other drug use that leads to impairment, distress, or negative consequences. The term includes substance abuse and addiction.

Support Person or Primary Support Person (SP/PSP): The individual, organization, or provider who, in addition to the adult who is vulnerable, is best able to coordinate with the agency in safety planning to safeguard the welfare and prevent further maltreatment of the adult who is vulnerable. The SP/PSP may be a legal representative, person authorized by the adult who is vulnerable, or another person, organization, or provider identified by the agency who is best able to coordinate with the agency for protection. The SP/PSP may be engaged to provide social connection, emotional support, guidance, or assistance to the adult who is vulnerable with activities of daily living (ADLs/IADLs). The SP/PSP can be different than a caregiver defined under MN Statute 626.5572 Subd. 4.

Supportive Decision Making (SDM): Assistance from one or more persons of an individuals' choosing in understanding the nature and consequences of potential personal and financial decisions which enables the individual to make the decisions and, when consistent with the individual's wishes, in communicating a decision once made (MN Statute 524.5-102 Subd. 16a).

Trustee: Appointed by the person (adult who is vulnerable), or the court with specific duties under the trust agreement or court order.

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Vulnerable adult (VA): Also referred to as “adult who is vulnerable, or adult vulnerable to maltreatment” is a person over age 18 who is vulnerable under the categorical or functional definitions in MN Statute 626.5572 Subd. 21.