

## PA Older Adult Protective Services Act of 1988 addresses:

- Physical abuse
- Verbal/emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Financial exploitation
- Neglect
- Abandonment
- Self-neglect

## The PA Older Adult Protective Services Act of 1988:

- Helps the victim and the caregiver through intervention
- Establishes a program to first detect abuse and neglect, and then reduce, correct or eliminate incidents of abuse or neglect involving older adults.
- Defines protective services as activities, resources and supports to detect, prevent, reduce or eliminate abuse, neglect; including self-neglect, financial exploitation or abandonment.



**Mission:** *The Area Agency on Aging strives to help Butler County residents who are 60 years of age and older, live independent lives.*

### Administration:

Beth Herold, AAA Administrator  
PS Clinical Deputy: Ricky Lake  
State Oversight: Pennsylvania Dept. of Aging

Legal Mandates: AAA is required through the following agencies and legislation to deliver services to the elderly in a coordinated manner, utilizing all community resources in an effort to avoid duplication and ensure comprehensive county-wide coverage:

- Federal Administration on Aging
- Pennsylvania Department of Aging
- Older Americans Act
- Pennsylvania Act 70

Contact us at  
**724-282-3008**  
[www.co.butler.pa.us](http://www.co.butler.pa.us)



**Butler County  
Area Agency on  
Aging Protective  
Services**

**Elder Abuse Hotline**  
**24 hours a day, 7 days a week**  
**Local: 724-282-6955**  
**Statewide: 1-800-490-8505**

**111 Sunnyview Circle**  
**Suite 101**  
**Butler, PA 16001**

**BUTLER COUNTY**  
AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Protective Services intervenes in situations where an older adult, over 60 years of age, becomes the object of abuse or neglect at the hands of another person. Protective Services will also become involved when an older adult demonstrates a lack of capacity to protect themselves, or meet his or her own basic needs.

The Butler County Area Agency on Aging is mandated by law to have a program to protect older adults who are unable to protect themselves. To be eligible for these services the older adult must be over 60 years of age, lack the capacity to protect themselves, and be at imminent risk of abuse, neglect, exploitation, or abandonment.

The laws purpose is not to put restrictions on the older adult, but to assure that necessary services are available to older adults who need them.

Elder Abuse may include infliction of injury, intimidation or punishment, resulting in harm, confinement, sexual harassment, abuse, financial exploitation, and deprivation of services which are necessary for physical or mental health.

The Butler County Area Agency on Aging Protective Services hotline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to receive reports concerning older adults in need of protective services.

A concerned individual who suspects an older adult is at risk of, or has experienced abuse or neglect, should contact Protective Services at the Area Agency on Aging at **724-282-6955**, or the statewide Protective Services hotline at **1-800-490-8505** to report the concern. An older adult who feels that he or she is being abused, neglected, or is unable to meet his or her own basic needs, may also call the Area Agency on Aging's Protective Services hotline, or the Statewide Protective Services hotline. Callers may remain anonymous, or use his or her name. In either case, the reporter's information will never be made public.

The older adult must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible for a report of need:

- A resident of Pennsylvania;
- 60 years of age or older;
- Without a responsible caregiver;
- Unable to perform or obtain services necessary to maintain physical or mental health; and
- At imminent risk of danger to person or property



pennsylvania  
DEPARTMENT OF AGING

*The Butler County Area Agency on Aging provides services to eligible individuals without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin, political affiliation, disability, familial status, military service, or religious, community or social affiliations.*

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In an emergency or life-threatening situation, an investigation will begin immediately. Otherwise, a Protective Services caseworker will conduct an investigation that begins with a face-to-face interview with the older adult within 24 to 72 hours, depending on the urgency.

In an emergency, always dial 9-1-1!

If the investigation determines that the older adult is lacking the ability to care for him/herself due to mental or physical disability, and abuse or neglect is occurring, the protective services caseworker will take appropriate action to reduce or eliminate the risk to the older adult.

If the investigation finds the case does not meet the criteria to qualify for Protective Services, the case is labeled unsubstantiated and closed. If the older adult is in need of other services, the caseworker can refer the consumer to additional services.

Help may include a care plan for any or all of the following:

- In-home services
- Financial management services
- Court-ordered intervention or guardianship

Emphasis is always placed on the individual's right to self-determination. Anyone, who has mental capacity, has the legal right to refuse services. If services are refused, the case is closed.

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