

Maryland Judiciary
Responding to Abuse or Neglect

In this video, we'll talk about what to do if you suspect someone is being abused or neglected. If the person is in immediate danger, call 9-1-1.

What if you are concerned that someone is a victim of abuse, neglect, or exploitation, but you can't verify the details? If the person is under the age of 18, call the local Child Protective Services office. If they are over 18, call the local Adult Protective Services office. Staff at these offices are professionals who are trained to investigate concerns about the safety or well-being of children and vulnerable adults. They offer services and support to help prevent or reduce the risk of someone being abused or neglected.

Keep in mind that investigating allegations of abuse and neglect is the job of police and protective services professionals. If you think someone is being harmed, do **not** attempt to investigate or question potential suspects or witnesses on your own.

Remember, always call 9-1-1 in cases of immediate danger. Call local protective services offices if you are concerned about a possible victim, but leave the investigation to the professionals.