What happens after a report of abuse?
DHS and local aging and disability offices provide protective services and investigate reports of suspected abuse. These agencies will determine whether or not abuse or neglect occurred and work with law enforcement when a potential crime may have occurred.

Will my name be kept confidential if I report abuse?
State law protects the confidentiality of all individuals reporting abuse. The identity of the reporter can only be revealed under specific legal exceptions such as reporting of a crime or an order by a judge. You are not required to give your name if you wish to remain anonymous.

Am I protected if I report abuse?
Yes. Oregon’s adult abuse reporting law affords protection for any individual who reports suspected abuse in good faith. Anyone reporting adult abuse with reasonable grounds is immune from civil liability.

For more information or to report abuse
To find your local office, go to the government pages of your telephone book and look under County Services for Seniors, Disability, Aging, or Human Services, or go to www.oregon.gov/DHS/spwpd/
or contact the
Oregon Department of Human Services
Seniors and People with Disabilities
500 Summer Street, NE E-10
Salem, Oregon 97301
Fax: 503-947-4245
TTY: 711

This document can be provided upon request in alternative formats for individuals with disabilities. Other formats may include (but are not limited to) large print, Braille, audio recordings, Web-based communications and other electronic formats.
E-mail valerie.m.eames@state.or.us, call 503-945-5884 (voice) or fax 503-947-4245, or TTY 711 to arrange for the alternative format that will work best for you.
Where does adult abuse occur?
Abuse can happen wherever someone lives, such as a person’s own home or the home of family or friends. It can also occur in a professional care setting such as a nursing facility, a residential care facility, an assisted living facility, an adult foster home, a retirement home or a room-and-board home.

How big a problem is adult abuse?
Each year, the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS), local offices of Seniors and People with Disabilities (SPD) and Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) receive more than 20,000 calls of concern and investigate more than 12,000 complaints of adult abuse and self-neglect.

As baby boomers age, the problem will worsen. In 2010, 13 percent of Oregon’s population was 65 or older. In 2030, 20 percent will be 65 or older.

Who is a mandatory reporter?
You are a mandatory reporter for older adults if you are a:
- Naturopathic, osteopathic, podiatric, chiropractic or general physician or surgeon (including an intern or resident);
- Licensed practical nurse, registered nurse, nurse’s aide, home health aide or employee of an in-home health service;
- Employee of DHS or OHA, county health department, community mental health, developmental disabilities program or an area agency on aging (AAA);
- Physical therapist, speech therapist, occupational therapist, audiologist or speech language pathologist;
- Information and referral or outreach worker;
- Senior center employee;
- Firefighter or emergency medical technician;
- Adult foster home licensee or an employee of the licensee; or
- Any public official that comes in contact with older adults in the performance of the official's duties.

Note: All of the above plus legal counsel, guardians and family members are mandatory reporters for any resident in a nursing facility.