

# Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation

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## Policy

All residents have the right to be free from verbal, sexual, physical, and mental abuse; corporal punishment; and involuntary seclusion. Our facility will make every effort to prevent not only abuse but also those practices and omissions, neglect, and misappropriation of property that, if left unchecked, lead to abuse.

## Procedure Guidelines

1. Residents must not be subjected to any form of abuse by anyone, including but not limited to facility staff, other residents, consultants or volunteers, staff of other agencies serving the individual, family members or legal guardians, friends, or other individuals.
2. Our facility will not employ individuals who have been convicted of abusing, neglecting, or mistreating individuals.
3. Our facility will report all alleged violations involving mistreatment, neglect, or abuse, including injuries of unknown source and misappropriation of resident property.

## Definitions

“Abuse” is defined as the willful infliction of injury, unreasonable confinement, intimidation, punishment with resulting physical harm or pain or mental anguish, or deprivation by an individual, including a caretaker, of goods or services that are necessary to attain or maintain physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being. This presumes that instances of abuse of all residents, even those in a coma, cause physical harm or pain or mental anguish.

“Verbal abuse” is defined as any use of oral, written, or gestured language that willfully includes disparaging and derogatory terms to residents or their families or occurs within their hearing distance, regardless of their age, ability to comprehend, or disability. Examples of verbal abuse include, but are not limited to, threats of harm or saying things to frighten a resident, such as telling a resident that he/she will never be able to see their family again.

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“Sexual abuse” includes but is not limited to sexual harassment, sexual coercion, and sexual assault.

“Physical abuse” includes hitting, slapping, pinching, and kicking. It also includes controlling behavior through corporal punishment.

“Mental abuse” includes but is not limited to humiliation, harassment, threats of punishment, and deprivation.

“Involuntary seclusion” is defined as separation of a resident from other residents or from his/her room or confinement to his/her room (with or without roommates) against the resident’s will or the will of the resident’s legal representative. Emergency or short-term monitored separation from other residents will not be considered involuntary seclusion and may be permitted if used for a limited period of time as a therapeutic intervention to reduce against agitation until professional staff can develop a plan of care to meet the resident’s needs.

“Neglect” is defined as failure to provide goods and services necessary to avoid physical harm, mental anguish, or mental illness.

“Misappropriation of property” is defined as the patterned or deliberate misplacement, exploitation, or wrongful, temporary, or permanent use of a resident’s belongings or money without the resident’s consent.