



South Lanarkshire

**Adult Protection**

Committee



**Public  
Information**

Everyone has the right to live their life safe from harm. The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 is there to protect adults who are unable to protect themselves, their property or rights.

## When is an adult at risk?

The law defines adults at risk as individuals aged 16 years or over who:

- are unable to safeguard their rights, well-being, property or other interests; and

- are at risk of harm; and
- are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness or physical or mental infirmity.

## What is harm?

Harm can be caused by another person's conduct or by the adult themselves.

The Act covers all types of harm including:

- neglect
- financial
- physical
- psychological/emotional
- sexual

- self-harm

(the above list is not exhaustive)

## What should I do?

We all have a responsibility to be vigilant to ensure the wellbeing and safety of adults who may require support.

This in turn, can play a large part in keeping our communities safe.

You should never ignore any suspicion that an adult is being harmed. You should:

- listen to what is said
- observe what is happening
- write down exactly what you see and hear

- tell the adult at risk what you will do next
- report exactly what you have seen and heard to Social Work Resources

## **What will happen next?**

You should report your concerns to Social Work Resources. If the adult at risk is in immediate danger, contact the Police.

A Social Worker will investigate the adult's circumstances whilst balancing their right to choose how they live their life.

For further advice or information contact Social Work Resources on

**0303 123 1008**

Immediate danger contact the Police on

**999**

Police non-emergency

**101**

If someone needs medical help contact the person's GP or NHS 24 on

**0845 242424**

## **If you see something which gives you cause for concern**

- act promptly and immediately report your concerns to Social Work

**Reporting your concerns or suspicions may be the first step in ensuring an adult is protected from harm.**

**If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs.**

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[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

[www.adultprotectionsouthlanarkshire.org.uk](http://www.adultprotectionsouthlanarkshire.org.uk)