

A New DSS Resource: Online Training for APS Mandated Reporters

One in five. . .that's the national estimate of how many cases of adult abuse, neglect or exploitation are reported to authorities.

In Virginia, mandated reporters of adult abuse, neglect and exploitation play a critical role in ensuring that **suspected adult abuse is reported to Adult Protective Services.**

To help educate mandated reporters about **their responsibilities** to report suspected adult abuse, neglect and exploitation, a new online training course, **ADS5055: Mandated Reporters: Recognizing and Reporting Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of Adults** is now available.

The course may be taken via the Virginia Department of Social Services' Knowledge Center at <https://covkc.virginia.gov> or the Virginia Institute for Social Services Training Activities (VISSTA) website at http://www.vcu.edu/vissta/non_vdss_employees/mandated_reporter_courses.htm.

This self-paced, interactive, online course offers an overview of the signs of adult abuse, neglect and exploitation and the process of reporting. After taking the course, mandated reporters will know more about recognizing adult abuse, neglect and exploitation and what they need to do to report their suspicions. Topics covered in this course include:

- Understanding the role and responsibilities of a mandated reporter
- Defining the types of adult abuse, neglect or exploitation
- Recognizing the indicators of abuse, neglect and exploitation
- Procedures for reporting suspected adult abuse, neglect and exploitation
- Information needed by Adult Protective Services (APS) when making a report
- APS response to reports of suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation
- Knowing what to expect from APS after a report is made

For a list of mandated reporters of adult abuse, neglect and exploitation, please visit
http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/aps_mandated.html.