



Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Resources

ODP Announcement 22-082

AUDIENCE:

Supports Coordination Organizations (SCOs) and Administrative Entities (AEs)

PURPOSE:

To announce new resource cards as well as an informational pamphlet for individuals ages 18 years and over. These resources will be mailed directly to all SCO's for Supports Coordinators (SCs) to use when talking with adults about their right to be free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

BACKGROUND:

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) is committed to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of program participants. As part of this ongoing commitment, ODP is making additional resources available for SCOs to use to facilitate annual discussions around an individual's rights to be free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

DISCUSSION:

ODP Announcements [19-094](#) and [105-18](#) both require SCs to inform individuals about abuse, neglect, and exploitation. As part of that discussion, SCs must advise individuals about the protections available to them and are required to review and complete the Right to Report Abuse Notification handout annually.

To aid in that discussion, ODP is distributing resource cards that are designed to be easily shared with program participants. Resource cards will help recipients identify when they do not feel safe or are in need of help. Pamphlets on Ways to Report Abuse will also be distributed.

Sample Resource cards:



SCs should provide these resource cards and the Ways to Report Abuse pamphlet to individuals over the age of 18 who would benefit from having them to use.

SCs continue to be required to use the attached Right to Be Free from Abuse Notification sheet annually with all individuals and record the action in the Home and Community Services Information System (HCSIS) as outlined in ODP Announcements [19-094](#) and [105-18](#).

Additional abuse prevention resources can be found at:

- Pennsylvania Department of Human Services website: [Fraud and Abuse \(pa.gov\)](#)
- Adult Protective Services: [APS Media Toolkit \(pa.gov\)](#)
- Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PaCDV): <https://www.pcadv.org/>
- Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR): <https://pcar.org/>

Further resources regarding abuse, neglect, and exploitation will be coming at a later date, as well as additional guidance on talking with minors.

If additional cards, or cards and materials in other languages or formats are required, please send a request to RA-PWODP_OUTREACH@pa.gov

This Announcement does not obsolete ODP Announcements [19-094](#) and [105-18](#).

CONTACT:

Questions about this communication should be directed to RA-PWODP_OUTREACH@pa.gov

ATTACHMENTS:

- Right to Be Free from Abuse Notification sheet
- Ways to Report Abuse pamphlet