

Definition(s): Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation of Elderly or Disabled Persons

[Texas Human Resources Code Chapter 48](#) requires any person having cause to believe that an elderly or disabled person is being abused, neglected, or exploited to immediately make a report to DFPS.

“Disabled person” means any person eighteen years of age or older (or under eighteen, if he or she has had the disabilities of minority removed) with a mental, physical, or developmental disability that substantially impairs his or her ability to provide adequately for his or her own care or protection.

“Elderly person” means any person sixty-five years of age or older.

“Abuse” can include:

- (A) the negligent or willful infliction of injury, unreasonable confinement, intimidation, or cruel punishment with resulting physical or emotional harm or pain to an elderly or disabled person by the person's caretaker, family member, or other individual who has an ongoing relationship with the person; or
- (B) sexual abuse of an elderly or disabled person, including any involuntary or nonconsensual sexual conduct (such as indecent exposure or other assaultive offenses), committed by the person's caretaker, family member, or other individual who has an ongoing relationship with the person.