

Distributed to chiefs and sheriffs on May 13, 2015

The Department of Human Services is communicating information regarding July 1, 2015 changes in process which will impact law enforcement agencies, including county sheriffs and local law enforcement agencies.

On July 1, 2015, Minnesota is moving from a county based reporting system to a state centralized system for reporting suspected maltreatment of vulnerable adults.

Beginning July 1, 2015 there will be changes in:

**1. Reporting suspected maltreatment of a vulnerable adult by law enforcement under [Minnesota Statutes 626.557 Subd. 9.](#)**

Reports of suspected maltreatment of a vulnerable adult will be made to a single state-wide toll free reporting system, the Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center (MAARC). MAARC will be the new single statewide common entry point on July 1, 2015. This is a change from current statute and practice where reports of suspected maltreatment of vulnerable adults are made to each county through a county board designated common entry point.

Mandated reporters of suspected maltreatment of a vulnerable adult, which include law enforcement under [Minnesota Statutes 626.5572 Subd.16](#), will have a new expanded option for web based reporting using a web based reporting tool on the DHS web site following implementation of MAARC.

Information on reporting changes is available at [Minnesota Department of Human Services, Adult protection web page.](#)

**2. Notification to law enforcement by the common entry point for reports of suspected maltreatment of a vulnerable adult which contain suspected criminal activity under [Minnesota Statutes 626.557 Subd. 9a. \(2\)](#) .**

Notification to law enforcement of reports of suspected maltreatment of a vulnerable adult made to the MAARC will be sent by MAARC, the state centralized common entry point, to the sheriff in the county where the alleged crime occurred, or if this location is unknown, to the sheriff in the county where the vulnerable adult is located. This is a change from current practice of most county board designed common entry points who make required referral notification for reports of suspected maltreatment to various law enforcement jurisdictions, including city or county law enforcement. Minnesota Statutes 626.557 does not identify which law enforcement agency receives notification from MAARC/CEP of suspected criminal activity, or which law enforcement agency is responsible for response to allegations which contain suspected criminal activity.

Law enforcement, including local city and county, as the primary agency to conduct investigations of maltreatment of a vulnerable adult where there is reason to believe a crime has been committed under [Minnesota Statutes 626.557 Subd. 9b.](#), continue in current roles of cooperation and data exchange with lead investigative agencies for the protection of vulnerable adults and for the civil investigation of suspected maltreatment under [Minnesota Statutes 626.5572 Subd. 13.](#) Lead investigative agencies for the civil

investigation of suspected maltreatment are: counties, the Minnesota Department of Human Services and the Minnesota Department of Health.

Communication and cooperation between lead investigative agencies and law enforcement agencies is critical to protection of vulnerable adults and to the investigation of suspected maltreatment. Referral notifications by MAARC to the sheriff under a single centralized maltreatment reporting system, emphasizes the need for cooperation and communication between counties responsible for emergency protective services, lead investigative agencies responsible for civil investigation and law enforcement agencies, in addition to the county sheriff, who have jurisdiction for criminal investigation of maltreatment and the protection of vulnerable adults.

Additional information regarding the announcement of the toll free phone number for reporting to MAARC and for access to the web based reporting site will be announced by the Minnesota Department of Human Services prior to July 1, 2015.

Please contact [DHS.AdultProtection@state.mn.us](mailto:DHS.AdultProtection@state.mn.us) with questions.

Thank you for your partnership in promoting state policy for the protection and safety of maltreated vulnerable adults.



Minnesota Department of Human Services  
Continuing Care for Older Adults  
Adult Protection Unit

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