

# Reporting Allegations of Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation



South Carolina  
Department of Disabilities  
and Special Needs

South Carolina state law requires the reporting of any suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation. The Child Protection Reform Act requires the reporting of any suspected abuse or neglect occurring to a child, age 17 and under. The Omnibus Adult Protection Act requires the reporting of suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a vulnerable adult, age 18 and above.

A Vulnerable Adult is defined as any person, age 18 and above, who has a physical or mental condition that substantially impairs the person from adequately providing for his/her own care or protection. A resident of a facility or a person, age 18 and above receiving services from DDSN or its contract provider agencies is a vulnerable adult.

The appropriate reporting agency is determined by the age of the victim, suspected perpetrator, and the location of the alleged incident.

## When the Alleged Victim is a Child:

*When the abuse or neglect of a child is suspected, a report must be made to the Abuse and Neglect Hotline at **1-888 CARE4US (1-888-227-3487)**. This telephone number may be used, regardless of the child's living arrangements.*

## When the Alleged Victim is an Adult:

**Residential Settings:** *For adults living in a DDSN Operated or Contracted Residential Setting, an allegation of Abuse/Neglect/Exploitation must be reported to the SLED Vulnerable Adult Investigations Unit (VAIU) at **1-866-200-6066**. SLED VAIU will then decide how the incident/allegations will be investigated.*

*Alleged abuse, neglect, or exploitation to a vulnerable adult in any residential program operated by or contracted for operation by DDSN shall be reported to SLED's toll-free number (1-866-200-6066) by the person who has actual knowledge, or reason to believe, that a vulnerable adult has been or is likely to be abused, neglected, or exploited.*

**Community Settings (including Day Services locations):** *For adults living in settings other than DDSN operated/contracted settings, allegations of ANE must be reported to DSS APS at **1-888-CARE4US**. Allegations may also be reported to Local Law Enforcement.*

*When the suspected abuse or neglect of an adult occurs in any location other than a residential setting operated or contracted for operation by DDSN, a report must be made to the DSS Abuse and Neglect Reporting Hotline. DSS operates a 24-hour Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 1-888 CARE4US (1-888-227-3487).*



**When in Doubt, Report!**