

Appendix 1

Glossary of Terms in the APS Guidelines¹

¹ Terms in *red italics* in the definition column are defined in the glossary.

Term	Definition
Adult maltreatment	The physical, emotional, and sexual abuse; financial exploitation; neglect; and/or self-neglect of an adult (18 years or older) who is <i>vulnerable to maltreatment</i> by someone with whom they have a known relationship.
Alleged victim	The person who is the subject of a report to APS of suspected <i>adult maltreatment</i> . Once APS <i>screens in the report for investigation</i> and creates a service plan, this person is referred to as an APS <i>client</i> .
APS systems	The agency(ies) invested by a governmental or tribal jurisdiction with the responsibility and power to accept and investigate reports of suspected <i>adult maltreatment</i> , and to provide or arrange for the provision of needed social, health, legal, and other services for their <i>clients</i> . Multiple APS systems may exist in a single jurisdiction.
Case	The designation given to a report of suspected <i>adult maltreatment</i> once it has been accepted by an <i>APS system</i> for investigation.
Findings/Determinations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmed • Inconclusive • Unfounded 	The terms that describe the assessment of the APS worker as to the determination that <i>adult maltreatment</i> has or has not occurred in a particular <i>case</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmed: <i>Adult maltreatment</i> likely occurred. • Inconclusive: <i>Adult maltreatment</i> may or may not have occurred. • Unfounded: <i>Adult maltreatment</i> has likely not occurred.
Client	The person who is the subject of an APS <i>investigation</i> and service plan.
Forensic center	A <i>multidisciplinary team (MDT)</i> that includes a geriatrician and a licensed psychologist. In addition to providing advice as a regular MDT, the forensic center (FC) members take on assignments such as visiting the <i>client</i> at home in order to conduct a capacity assessment or a medication review and reporting back to the FC team. FC teams typically meet weekly (as opposed to monthly for MDTs).
Investigation	The process of fact-finding as to whether or not <i>adult maltreatment</i> has occurred. This is done by interviewing the <i>client</i> , the alleged perpetrator, and ancillary sources of information. It may also involve reviewing relevant documents (e.g., bank statements).
Multidisciplinary team (MDT) or interdisciplinary team (I-team)	Team comprised of professionals from a variety of disciplines working together on an ongoing basis to combat adult maltreatment. Types of MDTs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital-based (geriatric/medical assessment team) • Financial abuse specialist team (FAST) • Vulnerable adult specialist team (VAST) • Elder abuse forensic center (EAFC) • Fatality review team • Hoarding team • Enhanced MDTs • General MDTs (also I-teams)
Residential care facility	Any setting, whether regulated or licensed by the state or not, where several adults with disabilities or older adults live together and receive care from people who are not related to them and who receive compensation for providing that care. Examples include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing homes • Adult foster homes • Board and care facilities • Congregate care • Personal care homes • Enriched housing programs • Homes serving primarily people with chronic mental illness • Homes serving primarily older adults

Term	Definition
Screened in reports	Reports to APS of suspected <i>adult maltreatment</i> that have been through an initial review process and have been found to be eligible to become APS <i>cases</i> .
Vulnerable (to adult maltreatment)	Refers to the presence of physical, mental, or social conditions that compromise an adult’s ability to protect him- or herself from maltreatment. ²

To see the updated Guidelines, go to: <https://acl.gov/programs/elder-justice/final-voluntary-consensus-guidelines-state-aps-systems>.

² Teaster, P.B., Anetzberger, G.J., & Heisler, C.J. (In Press). Introduction. In P. Teaster, C. Heisler, & G. Anetzberger (Eds.), *Ethics and vulnerable elders: The quest for individual rights and a just society*. San Diego, CA: Cognella.