

Principles of Adult Protective Services

1. Freedom over Safety

The client has a right to choose to live at risk of harm, providing she or he is capable of making that choice, harms no one else, and does not commit a crime.

2. Self-Determination

The client has a right to personal choices and decisions until a time that she or he delegates, or the court grants, the responsibility to someone else.

3. Participation in Decision Making

The client has a right to receive information to make informed decisions and to participate in all decision making affecting his or her circumstances to the extent able.

4. Least Restrictive Alternative

The client has a right to service alternatives that maximize choice and minimize life-style disruption.

5. Primacy of the Adult

The worker has a responsibility to serve the client, not the community people, family member or landlords concerns.

6. Confidentiality

The client has a right to privacy and secrecy

7. Benefit of Doubt

If there is evidence that the client is making a reasoned choice, the worker has a responsibility to see that the benefit of doubt is in his or her favor.

8. Do No Harm

The worker has a responsibility to take no action that places the client at greater risk of harm

9. Avoidance of Blame

The worker has a responsibility to understand the origins of any maltreatment and to Commit no action that would antagonize the perpetrator and so reduce the chances of terminating the maltreatment.

10. Maintenance of the Family

The worker has a responsibility to deal with the maltreatment as a family problem, if the perpetrator is a family member, and to try to find the necessary family services to resolve the problem.