

The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007/Law 29th October 2008 is to ensure adults in Scotland who are at risk from harm are supported and protected. This act was introduced to help stop acts of harm taking place.

The Act defines adults at risk as individuals, aged 16 years or over, whom

- are unable to safeguard themselves, their property, rights or other interests
- are at risk of harm: and
- because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness or physical or mental infirmity, are more vulnerable of being harmed than others

These guidelines are to assist in providing a definition of harm and how to deal with a situation where you think someone may be the victim of harm and what is considered good practice in dealing with harm.

Care assistance should be alert for signs of harm and as harm in on the increase carers should be alert in recognising signs and be ready to act should this occur.

5 Main Types of Harm

Physical:

I.e. hitting, slapping, burning, pushing, nipping, restraining or giving too much medication or the wrong medication;

Psychological:

For example, shouting, swearing, frightening, blaming, ignoring or humiliating a person;

Financial:

For example the illegal or unauthorised use or a removal of person's property, money, pension books or other valuables;

Sexual:

For example forcing a person to take part in any sexual activity without consent – this can occur in any relationship;

Neglect:

For example where a person if deprived of food, heat clothing or comfort, stimulation or social contact or essential medication and attention.

Possible signs of harm

Physical:

multiple bruising, finger marks, burns, injury similar shape to an object.

Psychological:

dramatic or uncharacteristic change in moods or behaviour. Person appears depressed, withdrawn, frightened, agitated or aggressive. Person makes a great effort to please.

Financial:

Unexplained withdrawals from a person's savings account, unexplained shortages of money despite



adequate income. Disappearance of bank statements or other valuables.

To read the full document please contact our head office.