

ADULT WELFARE ISSUES

When you encounter an adult who seems to be in trouble there are a wide variety of resources available depending on the particular problem. A mentally ill, chemically dependent, or otherwise vulnerable adult can be given assistance.

I. Approaching an adult in crisis

- A. If you feel comfortable approaching the person, talk with him or her, and offer assistance. A person in crisis might welcome your help. If the person has family (e.g. adult children, siblings, or parents) you can contact them. A neighbor or church nearby may provide some helpful information or assistance.
- B. If you are afraid or unwilling to approach this person, call 911. A police officer can respond and evaluate the situation. The person in trouble can be taken to Crisis Intervention at Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) or Hennepin County Detox (if the person is intoxicated), *at the discretion of the police officer only*. Police officers are not able to do this except in cases of extreme immediate emergency.

II. Resources Available

If you as a neighbor, friend, or other interested person are unable to contact a family member and the situation doesn't seem to justify police crisis intervention, there are still many possible sources of help.

- ◆ Hennepin County Adult Protection Intake, (612) 348-8526, can help you assess a situation and intervene or refer as needed.
- ◆ Hennepin County Pre-Petition Screening Program, (612) 348-2787, will work with family members and other interested persons to determine if an individual needs to be legally committed for treatment. The person in crisis must normally be in a holding facility (e.g. Crisis Intervention or Detox) at the time of intervention. Pre-Petition Screening will also assist with information and referrals when you call.
- ◆ Veterans' Affairs Medical Center will evaluate and provide assistance to eligible veterans. The best thing to do is to bring the person directly to VA Medical Center, 1 Veteran Drive, Minneapolis. According to the VA, the is little point in calling ahead. Just bring the person directly to the Medical Center. Bring any

documentation and records of their military service you can access. The person must, of course, go willingly. A family member might be able to help you convince them to go.

- ◆ First Call for Help, (651) 291-0211, can provide information about a wide variety of advocacy organizations who might be able to assist. (For example, the Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC) works with developmentally disabled people.)
- ◆ Council on Crime and Justice, (612) 340-5400, assists victims of crime who need counseling or assistance. They serve the entire Twin Cities metro area.
- ◆ Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support, (612) 673-2301, will go into homes that have become "garbage houses." These homes have become so full of trash, clothing, or other items, that they are no longer habitable. Occasionally there may also be large numbers of dogs, cats, or other pets that are creating a health hazard. Call **Animal Control** at **(612) 348-4250** for animal-related concerns. The Department of Health and Family Support provides other health related-services as well.



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For individuals with disabilities:

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