

## Signs and indicators of adult neglect

Neglect and Acts of Omission	Organisational Abuse	Self-Neglect
<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ignoring medical, emotional, or physical care needs</li> <li>• Failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services.</li> <li>• The withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition, and heating.</li> <li>• Not taking account of individuals' cultural, religious, or ethnic needs</li> </ul> <p>The following are also potential indicators of Neglect and Acts of Omission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor environmental conditions</li> <li>• Inadequate heating and lighting</li> <li>• Poor physical condition of the vulnerable adult</li> <li>• Clothing is ill-fitting, unclean and in poor condition.</li> <li>• Malnutrition</li> <li>• Failure to give prescribed medication properly.</li> <li>• Failure to provide appropriate privacy and dignity.</li> <li>• Inconsistent or reluctant contact with health and social care agencies</li> <li>• Isolation – denying access to callers or visitors.</li> </ul>	<p>May include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inappropriate use of power or control.</li> <li>• Inappropriate confinement, restraint, or restriction.</li> <li>• Lack of choice – in food, in decoration, in lighting and heating, and in other environmental aspects.</li> <li>• Lack of personal clothing or possessions.</li> <li>• No flexibility of schedule, particularly with bed times.</li> <li>• Financial abuse.</li> <li>• Physical or verbal abuse.</li> <li>• An unsafe, unhygienic, or overcrowded environment.</li> <li>• A strict or inflexible routine.</li> <li>• Lack of privacy, dignity, and respect for people as individuals.</li> <li>• Withdrawing people from community or family contacts.</li> <li>• No choice offered with food, drink, dress, or activities.</li> <li>• No respect or provisions for religion, belief, or cultural backgrounds.</li> <li>• Treating adults like children, including arbitrary decision-making.</li> </ul>	<p>There are 3 types of self-neglect:</p> <p><b>A lack of self-care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor hydration and diet, having little fresh food.</li> <li>• Not actively seeking medical attention when needed.</li> <li>• Not maintaining personal hygiene e.g., showering, cleaning teeth or washing clothes.</li> <li>• Extreme distress or feeling ashamed / overwhelmed due to their self-neglect.</li> <li>• Extensive debts due to not managing money.</li> </ul> <p><b>A lack of care of one's environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very unclean e.g., toilet blocked by human waste or household cleaning not done at all.</li> <li>• Infestations of vermin or insects.</li> <li>• Neglect of household maintenance, creating hazards e.g., structurally unsound flooring.</li> <li>• Obsessive hoarding of objects or pets.</li> </ul> <p><b>Refusal of services that could alleviate these issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not agreeing to any treatment or care relating to medical, household, or personal hygiene needs.</li> <li>• Person now requires treatment for preventable conditions.</li> <li>• Aids or adaptations are refused.</li> </ul>

Report any concerns to Adult Social Care:

Call 0300 555 0055 or visit <https://adultsocialcare.dudley.gov.uk/>

For more information on hoarding, view the Think Family Hoarding Toolkit on the DSPP website:

<https://dudleysafeguarding.org.uk/think-family-hoarding-toolkit-2024-2026/>