

Gateway Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living Policy Manual and Operating Procedures

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Policy Statement

The Department shall provide for a community Elder Abuse Prevention program in consultation partnership with the Area Agencies on Aging and Independent Living to develop and enhance programs to address elder abuse, neglect and exploitation; as well as promote systemic changes through multi-disciplinary advocacy.

Procedure:

- (1) The Department will contract with the designated AAA to carry out activities to develop, strengthen and carry out programs for the prevention, detection, assessment, and treatment of, intervention in, investigation of, and response to elder abuse, neglect and exploitation (including financial exploitation).
- (2) GAAA shall coordinate with the Long Term Care Ombudsman, senior centers, long-term care facilities, judicial, law enforcement and other community agencies and Government partnering agencies/programs.
- (3) GAAA shall provide for public education and outreach to identify and prevent elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- (4) GAAA shall provide for public education and outreach to promote financial literacy and prevent identity theft and financial exploitation of older individuals.
- (5) DAAL and GAAA shall ensure the coordination of services provided by GAAA with services instituted under the state adult protective services program, state and local law enforcement systems, and courts of competent jurisdiction.

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Training Policy Statement

The Department in partnership with the Gateway Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living, and the LTCOP shall conduct training for individuals in the community and in long-term care settings on the identification, prevention, and treatment of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, with particular focus on prevention and enhancement of self-determination and autonomy.

Procedure:

(1) Training will be scheduled and provided for individuals including:

- (a) caregivers described under Title III E
- (b) professionals, and
- (c) paraprofessionals, in relevant field

(2) Provide technical assistance to programs that provide or have the potential to provide services for victims of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation and for family members of the victims.

(3) Conduct special and on-going training, for individuals involved in serving victims of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation on the topics of self-determination, individual rights, State and Federal requirements concerning confidentiality, and other topics determined by DAIL to be appropriate.

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Reporting Policy Statement

The Department recognizes and supports the provisions of KRS 209.030, which sets forth provisions of mandatory reporting of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Procedure:

- (1) The GAAA shall establish a policy and procedure on reporting any actual or suspected cases of elder abuse, neglect or exploitation, which includes a provision for immunity from disciplinary action for making a report as required under KRS 209.030.
- (2) Preserve the confidentiality of records in order to protect the rights of older individuals, releasing information only to those that have a need to know or through a release of information.

Please note: Long Term Care Ombudsmen (LTCO) are not mandatory reporters unless they receive consent of the resident (Or Guardian) to report the abuse, or if the LTCO witnessed the abuse of the resident.

(References: 910 KAR 1:210 Section 11; OAA § 712 (d); Chapter 16, Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, Section 16.27, Referrals)

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Multidisciplinary Elder Justice Activities Policy Statement

The Department and GAAA shall support multidisciplinary elder justice activities across the state.

Procedure:

- (1) GAAA shall support a coordinated multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary response to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- (2) Establish or participate on the local elder abuse coordinating councils.
- (3) Provide training, technical assistance and other methods of support to groups carrying out multidisciplinary efforts.
- (4) Provide information and recommendations to DAAL relating to efforts to combat elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- (5) Participate in the Multi Agency Forums, which promote systems advocacy and identify issues with the coordinated efforts of identifying and responding to victims of abuse, neglect and exploitation.