

# KEEPING SOUTH CAROLINA'S VULNERABLE POPULATION SAFE

## *who to contact in situations of abuse or other mistreatment*

Older adults and/or people with disabilities are involved in their communities now more than ever. They want to have the freedom to go out and socialize, live their lives as they choose, with the same rights and privileges as everyone else. But, sometimes they may need outside help, placing them in a vulnerable situation without knowing where to turn. The **Adult Protection Coordinating Council (APCC)** is launching an initiative to help South Carolinians get to the right place the first time to report abuse, neglect, exploitation and/or mistreatment.

As a caregiver, it may be difficult to always be aware of the treatment your loved one is receiving, and you may not know who to contact. A person experiencing abuse or other mistreatment may find it difficult to tell a loved one about the abuse that they have experienced. If you or your loved one has been mistreated,

**where you are living** will determine who to call for help. Below is a list of the departments who handle reports of mistreatment.

### *If you or your loved one...*

- Live in a licensed nursing home or assisted living facility:  
— **Long Term Care Ombudsman, 1 (800) 868-9095**
- Live in a residential facility contracted by the SC Department of Mental Health or Department of Disabilities and Special Needs:  
— **SLED Special Victims Unit, 1 (866) 200-6066**
- Live at home or in the community:  
— **Adult Protective Services at DSS, 1 (888) 227-3487**
- Have been affected by Identity Theft and/or Scams:  
— **Department of Consumer Affairs, 1 (800) 922-1594**
- If you or your loved one are in immediate danger or harm, **please call your local law enforcement agency or 911.**

Reporting abuse should not be difficult. The APCC's goal is to gather all the contact information you need to report to the correct agency and have it all in one place. Concerned members of the community are urged to report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation. With your help, vulnerable adults can be protected and receive services.



#### **About APCC**

The Adult Protection Coordinating Council was created as a part of the Omnibus Adult Protection Act. The council was created to foster coordination and cooperation among multiple entities involved in the adult protection system. The 23-member council is composed of 19 public and private organizations and four members representing consumers/service providers.

