

Ten Principles of Adult Protective Services

- 1. FREEDOM OVER SAFETY:** The client has a right to choose to live at risk of harm, providing s/he is capable of making that choice, harms no one and commits no crime.
- 2. SELF DETERMINATION:** The client has a right to personal choices and decisions until such time as s/he delegates or the court grants the responsibility to someone else.
- 3. PARTICIPATE IN DECISION-MAKING:** The client has a right to receive information to make informed decisions and to participate in all decision-making affecting his/her circumstances to the extent that s/he is able.
- 4. LEAST RESTRICTIVE ALTERNATIVE:** The client has a right to service alternatives that maximize choice and minimize lifestyle disruption.
- 5. PRIMACY OF THE ADULT:** The worker has a responsibility to serve the client - not the community concerned about safety, or the landlord concerned about crime or the family concerned about finances.
- 6. CONFIDENTIALITY:** The client has a right to privacy and secrecy.
- 7. BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT:** If there is evidence that the client is making a reasoned choice, the worker has a responsibility to see that the benefit of the doubt is in the client's favor.
- 8. DO NO HARM:** The worker has a responsibility to take no action that places the client at greater risk.
- 9. AVOIDANCE OF BLAME:** The worker has a responsibility to understand the origins of any maltreatment and commit no action which will antagonize the perpetrator and so reduce the chances of terminating the maltreatment.
- 10. MAINTENANCE OF FAMILY:** The worker has a responsibility to deal with the maltreatment as a family problem, if the perpetrator is a family member, and give the family the necessary services to resolve the problem.