The Agency Supports Persons with Developmental Disabilities in Living, Learning, and Working in Their Communities.
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# Module 1

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The state of Florida requires this course for staff who work with individuals with developmental disabilities as a statewide initiative to prevent abuse, neglect, and exploitation of those individuals.

In this module, you will learn what actions are defined as abuse, neglect, and exploitation. You will also learn about some reasons why caregivers mistreat those individuals in their care.

The pictures tell stories. These stories existed in Texas, and were provided courtesy of Disability Services ASAP (A Safety Awareness Program).

Unfortunately, they are not unique to Texas and are just as likely to happen in Florida. We hope you learn in this course how to recognize abuse, neglect, and exploitation, as well as how and where to report incidents so that these types of incidents can be prevented.
My name is Shelia, my picture is on the right and I have cerebral palsy. I have some movement in my arms but cannot speak. My mother helps me get dressed every day. However, when she helps me out of bed in the morning, she pulls me by my arms with extreme force. She bathes me in HOT water and washes my hair with her nails to the point that it brings tears to my eyes every day. She also lets shampoo run into my eyes. At mealtime, she helps me eat, but she feeds me the same cold apricot baby food for every meal. She never really pays attention and stuffs too much in my mouth before I have a chance to swallow the last few bites, sometimes causing me to cough and choke. My mom scares me and I do not know what to say or whom to tell because she is my mom.

My name is Kristen, my picture is on the right, and I have an intellectual disability. I am nonverbal and live in a group home. Since I am the resident who has lived there the longest, I do not have a roommate. One of the house rules is lights out by 10:00 p.m. Most of the other residents are asleep by 10:30 p.m. On occasion, one of the staff members comes into my room around 11:30 p.m. and forces me to touch him sexually and he touches me sexually. He tells me he chose me because I am the prettiest and nicest resident, and that I am special and it is an honor to have him come into my room. He tells me that he is helping me experience sexual pleasure that I would not experience without him. However, to not hurt the other residents’ feelings, he tells me not to tell anyone. If I do, he says he will deny it all and come in the night and hurt me. What he says makes sense and I guess I should thank him, but I cannot figure out why I do not feel good about the situation. I wait in fear every night in the dark.
Slide 5 - Purpose of Training

The purpose of the Zero Tolerance training is to teach direct care providers, support coordinators, and any individual providing care or support to an APD consumer (on behalf of the agency or its providers) about abuse, neglect, and exploitation of individuals with developmental disabilities. This course will provide information about how often and why these types of crimes happen and also describe how and why these crimes occur. This training will provide the tools needed to identify potentially dangerous situations and explain how to report that information. You will also find out about ways you can prevent abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Slide 6 - Course Objectives

By the end of this Zero Tolerance course, you will be able to:

1. Define caregiver.
2. Define the five general types of caregiver abuse.
3. Describe the reasons why individuals with developmental disabilities are more likely to be abused, neglected, or exploited.
4. Explain how power and control contribute to caregiver abuse.
5. List statistics related to the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of individuals with developmental disabilities.

You will also be able to:

7. Describe strategies to apply when assessing an individual for abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
8. Explain issues to consider when assessing an individual for abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
9. List indicators of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
Slide 8 – Course Objectives

You will also be able to:

10. Explain how to report abuse, neglect, or exploitation.
11. Identify common barriers to reporting abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
12. Explain procedures for investigating reported abuse.
13. Describe methods which can be used to prevent, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
14. Describe how to create and maintain a safe living environment for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Slide 9 – Audience and Length of Time

The Audience for this course is intended to be direct care providers and support coordinators and any individual providing care or support to an APD consumer on behalf of the agency or its providers. The Length of Time for the Zero Tolerance course is estimated to be five hours. This course is divided into four modules.

Slide 10 – Course Overview

Course Overview:
The Zero Tolerance Participant's Guide is organized into the following modules and will be used along with this course:

Module 1: Defining Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation of People with Developmental Disabilities.
Module 2: Recognizing the Signs and Symptoms.
Module 3: Reporting to the Abuse Hotline.
Caregivers are family members such as a parent, spouse, sibling, child as well as, close friends, volunteers, and neighbors.

Caregivers who may be paid and involved in an individual’s care include; support coordinators, homemakers, transportation drivers, doctors, nurses and teachers or teacher’s aides.

Turn to page 12 in the Participant’s Guide for more information about caregivers.
Caregivers provide assistance with personal care tasks that include:
- Bathing
- Dressing
- Toileting
- Transferring or Moving the individual
- Assisting to Eat
- Cooking

Other examples of caregiver tasks are:
- Cleaning
- Running errands
- Paying bills
- Providing Transportation, and
- Giving medications

Turn to page 13 in the Participant's Guide.

The legal definitions under Florida law define “caregiver” in two different ways. One definition of “caregiver” applies to those individuals who are responsible for caring for children.

The other definition applies to caregivers of adults with developmental disabilities, who are referred to as “vulnerable adults” in Florida law.

Turn to page 14 in your Participant's Guide for the legal definition.
Types of Caregiver Abuse
Caregiver abuse is the exertion of the caregiver’s will over the person with a disability. Caregiver abuse usually falls into one of five categories. When abuse is present, these categories of abuse frequently overlap. There are five general types of caregiver abuse and some examples are provided:

- **Physical** - hitting, pushing, hair pulling, kicking, biting
- **Sexual** - verbal harassment; unwanted sexual touching of private parts; forced abortion, sterilization or pregnancy
- **Emotional and/or Verbal** - verbal abuse focused on impairment; denial of right to make decisions;
- **Financial Exploitation** - denial of access to or control of funds; misusing financial resources;
- **Neglect / Self-Neglect** - denial of food, clothing, shelter or transportation; not working assigned hours or not performing duties;

You can find more examples for each of the types of caregiver abuse on page 16 in your Participant’s Guide.

Laws Regarding Types of Abuse
Not only is Florida law separated into types of abuse, but it is further categorized to distinguish between issues such as abandonment, abuse, and neglect of *children*, and exploitation, abuse, and neglect of *adults* with developmental disabilities. Florida law is separated into these types of abuse:

- **Child Abandonment**
- **Child Abuse**
- **Child Neglect**
- **Exploitation of an Adult with a Developmental Disability**
Florida laws are further categorized to distinguish between issues such as abandonment, abuse, and neglect of *adults* with developmental disabilities.

**Laws regarding the types of abuse** are categorized by:

- **Abuse of an Adult with a Developmental Disability**
- **Neglect of an Adult with a Developmental Disability**
- **Aggravated Abuse and Neglect of an Elderly Individual or Disabled Adult**

Turn to page 17-20 in your Participant's Guide for the legal descriptions.

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**Sexual Misconduct** is described in Florida Statutes 393.135 as

*Sexual activity between any individual providing care and a consumer (to whom he or she is rendering services) became illegal in 2004 and is referred to in FS 393.135 as sexual misconduct.*

Turn to page 21-22 in your Participant's Guide for the full legal description.
A law regarding sexual misconduct by service providers provides the following:

- Forms a crime called sexual misconduct which is defined as any sexual activity between a service provider and certain individuals with a developmental disability.
- Makes the crime of sexual misconduct punishable as a second degree felony.
- Makes failure to report known or suspected cases of sexual misconduct a first degree misdemeanor.
- Eliminates consent by the consumer as a valid defense against prosecution for this crime.
- Expands Level 1 and 2 background screening requirements to include the recently-developed crime of sexual misconduct as a disqualifying offense for employment.

Turn to page 21 in your Participant's Guide for information about sexual misconduct.

For the purposes of the Sexual Misconduct law in the excerpt of the Florida Sexual Misconduct Law cited in Florida Statutes section 393.135.

Sexual activity means:

1. Fondling the genital area, groin, inner thighs, buttocks, or breasts of an individual.
2. The oral, anal, or vaginal penetration by or union with the sexual organ of another or the anal or vaginal penetration of another by any other object.
3. Intentionally touching in a lewd or lascivious manner the breasts, genitals, the genital area, or buttocks, or the clothing covering them, of an individual, or forcing or enticing an individual to touch the perpetrator.
4. Intentionally masturbating in the presence of another individual.
5. Intentionally exposing the genitals in a lewd or lascivious manner in the presence of another individual.
6. Intentionally committing any other sexual act that does not involve actual physical or sexual contact with the victim, including, but not limited to, sadomasochistic abuse, sexual bestiality, or the simulation of any act involving sexual activity in the presence of a victim.

More information regarding this law is in the text on page 22-23 in the Participant's Guide.
In this module, you learned about the definition of a caregiver and examples of caregiver tasks as well as the five general types of caregiver abuse and reasons why individuals with developmental disabilities are more likely to be abused, neglected and exploited. The laws regarding types of abuse were summarized. A law regarding sexual misconduct by service providers forms a new crime called “sexual misconduct.”

Turn to activity #1 on page 24 in the handbook. Examples of the Five General Types of Caregiver Abuse.

You have completed module 1. You are now ready to go to module 2, where you will learn how to recognize the signs and symptoms of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Follow these steps to locate the next module:
1. After viewing the presentation, close the window, return to the Home page, and locate My Learning.
2. Click on My Learning to expand the window.
3. Click on the APD - Zero Tolerance - A Statewide Initiative course name.
4. On the Course Registration Management page, locate and click on the “M” button under the Manage column.
5. On the next page, click the Completed button.
6. Complete the Course rating and click the “Save button”.
7. On the Course Registration Management page, locate and click on the APD - Zero Tolerance - Module 2.