

Using The Missouri Adult Abuse and Neglect Investigations System Map

Background

The Missouri Adult Abuse & Neglect Investigations System Map was developed to show the possible path a report of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a person with a disability can take through three state agencies that receive and investigate reports.

This guide describes how the map can be used to:

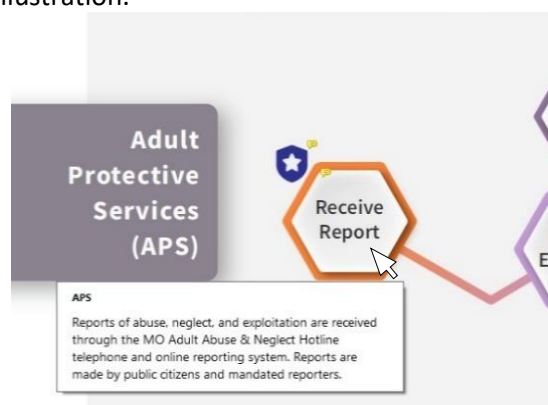
- Support education and training,
- Strengthen partnerships and collaborations,
- Improve response to victims with disabilities, and
- Give information to advocates, family members, and professionals to better navigate Missouri's reporting systems.

The map and supplementary materials were developed by the University of Missouri –Institute for Human Development with input and feedback from a statewide task force on disability and abuse, self-advocates and family members, victim-service agencies, disability service providers, law enforcement, prosecutors, and staff from each agency featured in the map. Funding for this project came from the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council.

Interactive Map Features

The map begins from the moment a report of abuse, neglect, or exploitation is received by one of three state agencies. It follows the report through the investigation and referral processes and ultimately, shows how it leads to possible prosecution of an alleged perpetrator.

- [Download the interactive map](#) to view “pop-up” information that gives more description about what occurs at each phase.
- To use the “pop-up” function, hover your cursor over each hexagon or police badge to view pop-up info as shown in the illustration.



- If the “pop-up” doesn't appear, try clicking your cursor in the gray space and then hover back over the hexagon.
- Keep in mind the map covers complex systems that are guided by several state laws and agency policies. In the interest of space and usability, the map does not incorporate every step or outcome occurring in each phase. For this reason, we encourage you to view the supplementary info.

Supplementary Materials

The map is accompanied by the following documents which can be [downloaded](#) from the project website.

- **Agency Descriptions** - Read through descriptions of each agency's reporting and investigation path; including links to state laws and regulations that guide the process. This document explains information provided in the map.
- **Glossary of Terms** – Learn more about agency staff, acronyms, and definitions for terms used in the map and “Agency Descriptions” document.
- Supplementary documents are provided in plain text, screen reader friendly versions to accommodate all viewers.

Using the Map to Support:

Education & Training

Use the map to train and educate staff, pre-professionals, law enforcement, individual/family advocacy groups, and mandated reporters.

Professionals and agencies can embed the map into existing training and information sessions or to conduct stand-alone training on the abuse and neglect reporting and investigations pathways in Missouri.

Considerations for Education and Training:

- Ensure your audience knows the purpose of the map outlined in the Background section above.
- Highlight that the map shows the **possible** paths for a report of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Not every report will go through all six phases shown on the map.
- It's important to use the supplementary materials, particularly when training agency staff, law enforcement, prosecutors, or other professionals working directly with the system.

Advocacy

Use the map to support survivors of abuse who are involved in the systems.

An advocate working for a victim service agency, disability organization, or a court advocate could use the map to explain what might happen after a report of abuse it made to one of the three agencies. People who have experienced abuse may find it empowering to learn more the system. Likewise, family members, support people, and those that made the report might find it helpful to learn more about the possible outcomes.

Considerations for Advocacy:

- The primary audience for the map was for professionals working closely with this system. Individuals with significant disabilities may find it challenging to follow the map. For that reason, we recommend an advocate or support person go through the map with them.
- Make sure the individual knows that the map shows the **possible** paths a report could take. Not every report will result in their abuser being punished.

Additional Resource: When working directly with survivors and families, if an individual feels that their report did not go through the system properly, their rights were violated in the process, or they did not receive adequate protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation, they can contact [Missouri Protection and Advocacy \(MO P&A\)](#) for legal consultation and services. Call MO P& A at 1-800-392-8667.

Systems Enhancement

Use the map to strengthen collaboration and improve systems.

Professionals working within the criminal justice system, policy makers, and regional and statewide taskforces can use the map to facilitate conversations about strengthening collaborations and identifying areas for improved response to victims with disabilities.

Considerations for Systems Enhancement:

- Ensure your audience knows the purpose of the map outlined in the Background section above.
- Highlight that the map shows the **possible** paths for a report of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Not every report will go through all six phases shown on the map.
- Use the map to run scenarios about different types of reports and map their path through the system. Have the group discuss if the report ended up where it needed to go. Explore what processes could be improved or change to ensure that it does.
- It's important to use the supplementary materials, particularly when discussing how policies and statutes impact the path illustrated on the map.



This document was developed by the University of Missouri – Kansas City as part of the “Mapping the Missouri Adult Abuse and Neglect Investigation System” project. To view the interactive map and for more information [visit the project website](#).

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