

What is the Protection for Persons in Care Act?

The Protection for Persons in Care Act (the Act) is a law to help protect adults from abuse and neglect while receiving care in Manitoba personal care homes, hospitals or any other designated health facility.

Defining abuse

Under this law, the definition of abuse includes physical, sexual, mental, emotional or financial mistreatment. Any of these, alone or in combination, is considered “abuse” if the mistreatment causes or is reasonably likely to cause death, serious harm or significant loss of property.

Defining neglect

The definition of neglect includes mistreatment that deprives a patient of adequate care, mistreatment that deprives a patient of adequate medical attention or other necessities of life or a combination of any of these that causes or is reasonably likely to cause death, or serious physical or psychological harm to a patient.

Duty to report

In Manitoba, it is mandatory to report suspected abuse and neglect promptly. This means that anyone who has a reasonable basis to believe abuse or neglect has occurred, or is likely to occur, must report these concerns as soon as possible.

How to report

The Protection for Persons in Care Office (PPCO) receives and investigates reports of suspected patient or resident abuse and neglect.

Facilities are required to report suspected abuse or neglect in writing to the PPCO. The general public can report suspected abuse and neglect in any manner (see contact info at the end of this handout). If you're not sure whether a situation needs to be reported, call the PPCO for assistance.

Reporting safeguards

When suspected abuse or neglect is reported in good faith, the Act prohibits:

- any interruption in the care and services provided to patients and residents.
- any action or proceedings against any person, including health facility employees, for reporting suspected abuse or neglect.

The Act also protects caregivers and others who work with persons in care against malicious reporting.

The reporting and investigation process

How the process works:

- After receiving a report of suspected abuse or neglect, the PPCO follows up with the care facility.
- Where there is reason to believe that abuse or neglect has occurred, or is likely to occur, the matter is investigated.
- Under the law, a health facility operator may be required to make changes as a result of this investigation.
- Where necessary, referrals may be made to a professional regulatory body for further review of the actions taken by caregivers or health care professionals.
- The PPCO may refer an individual to the Adult Abuse Registry Committee if it concludes abuse or neglect occurred.

More information:

For more information or to make a report:

Website: www.manitoba.ca/health/protection

The Protection for Persons in Care Office

300 Carlton Street, Winnipeg, MB R3B 3M9

Phone: 204-788-6366

Toll free: 1-866-440-6366 (outside Winnipeg)

Email: protection@gov.mb.ca

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