



# WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS WEEK

NORTH CENTRAL HEALTH CARE

## Understanding Adult Protective Services (APS) Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults in Marathon, Lincoln, & Lantana County

Adult Protective Services (APS) plays a vital role in safeguarding vulnerable adults and elders, promoting their well-being. Operating within the tri-county area of Marathon, Lincoln, and Lantana County, North Central Health Care's APS is dedicated to ensuring the safety and protection of adults and elders who are at risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

### What is APS & Why is it Important?

APS is a social services program that responds to reports of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of adults and elders who are unable to protect themselves due to physical or mental impairments. These individuals may include older adults, people with disabilities, and those experiencing mental health challenges. APS serves as a lifeline for vulnerable adults who may be experiencing mistreatment or living in unsafe conditions.

### Key Functions of APS:

- **Investigating Reports:** APS conducts thorough investigations into reports of abuse, neglect, or exploitation to determine the validity of the claims and take appropriate action.
- **Providing Support:** APS offers support and assistance to adults in need, connecting them with essential services such as medical care, housing assistance, and legal protection.
- **Preventing Further Harm:** By intervening in abusive situations and providing necessary interventions, APS works to prevent further harm to vulnerable adults and elders and ensure their safety.
- **Empowering Individuals:** APS empowers vulnerable adults and elders by advocating for their rights, helping them regain control over their lives, and promoting self-sufficiency whenever possible.

### 2023 Adult Protective Service Impact in the Tri-County Area



**Contact your local APS at 715.841.5160**

For additional awareness information & resources visit [NORCEN.ORG/ElderAbuse](https://NORCEN.ORG/ElderAbuse)

