“Abuse” means a range of actions or inactions, including abandonment, financial exploitation, neglect, physical abuse, emotional or verbal abuse, self neglect, and sexual abuse.

(a) “Abandonment” means the desertion or intentional forsaking of an older adult or an adult with a disability for any period of time by a person who has assumed responsibility for providing care, when that desertion or forsaking would place the person in serious risk of harm.

(b) “Emotional or verbal abuse” means the intentional infliction of anguish, distress, or intimidation through verbal or non-verbal acts or denial of civil rights.

(c) “Financial exploitation” means the illegal or improper use, by means including, but not limited to, deceit, coercion, fraud, or undue influence, of the resources (including medications) of an older adult or individual with a disability. This includes causing alarm by conveying a threat to wrongfully take or appropriate money or property, which would be expected to cause an older adult to believe the threat will be carried out.

(d) “Neglect” means the failure (whether intentional, careless or due to inadequate experience, training or skill) to provide basic necessary care or services when agreed to by legal, contractual, or otherwise assumed responsibility when such failure may lead to physical or emotional harm. This includes failure of a person who has fiduciary responsibility to assure the continuation of necessary care (for example, failure to pay for necessary care resulting in the withdrawal of services).
(e) **Physical abuse** means the use of physical force that may result in bodily injury, physical pain, or impairment. Physical abuse may include, but is not limited to:

A. Such acts of violence as striking (with or without object), hitting, beating, punching, shoving, shaking, slapping, kicking, pinching, and burning;
B. The intentionally inappropriate use of drugs or physical restraints;
C. The intentional mis-administration of types or amounts of drugs to cause harm to the person receiving them; and
D. The use of force-feeding or physical punishment.

(f) **Sexual abuse** means non-consensual sexual contact or behavior that includes, but is not limited to, sexual harassment, inappropriate sexual comments, and threats. These activities are considered non-consensual if the person does not make, or is incapable of making, informed choice.

AND self-neglect which is not an abuse, but a form of neglect that requires protective services.

(f) **Self-neglect** means the inability of a person to understand the consequences of his or her actions or inaction when that inability leads to or may lead to harm or endangerment to self or others.