

Effective January 1, 2019, state law requires agencies to post guidance documents on the Virginia Town Hall website and in the Virginia Register for a 30-day public comment period. The APS Division will submit guidance documents on Town Hall on July 3, 2019 for publication on July 22, 2019 in accordance with the Virginia Register of Regulations publishing schedule.

House Bill (HB) 2560 and Senate Bill (SB) 1224, <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+ful+CHAP0170+pdf>. HB 2560 and SB 1224 amended § 63.2-1605 of the Code of Virginia by permitting local departments, when practicable, to create and maintain local multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs) comprised of professionals who serve older and incapacitated adults to:

- (1) assist in identifying abused, neglected, and exploited adults;
- (2) coordinate services for abused, neglected, and exploited adults;
- (3) develop innovative programs for detection and prevention of the adult abuse, neglect, or exploitation;
- (4) promote community awareness to address abuse, neglect, and exploitation; and
- (5) disseminate information to the general public regarding adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation, prevention methods, and treatment options for victims.

The legislation also allows Commonwealth's Attorneys to create MDTs separately or in conjunction with existing MDTs.

The Department of Justice (DOJ), Elder Justice initiative, has developed a free MDT toolkit available at: <https://www.justice.gov/elderjustice/mdt-toolkit>. The DOJ toolkit is an excellent resource for LDSS interested in starting their own MDT.

HB 1987 and SB 1490, <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+ful+CHAP0420+pdf>. HB 1987 and SB 1490 enable financial institution staff as defined in § 63.2-1606, to: (1) refuse to execute a transaction, (2) delay a transaction, or (3) refuse to disburse funds if staff believes the financial transaction is the result of financial exploitation of the adult. The financial institution staff may continue these actions for no longer than 30 business days after the date of staffs' initial action. When requested, financial institution staff may share information or records relevant to the suspected financial exploitation with APS workers to the extent allowed by state and federal law. The legislation incorporated a definition of financial exploitation to which financial institution staff may refer. Local APS staff are encouraged to notify financial institution staff in their community of this legislative change.

HB 2225, <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+ful+CHAP0339+pdf>

HB 2225 allows financial institution staff, who suspects that an adult has been financially exploited, to provide supporting information and records to the LDSS or the adult protective services hotline. Local APS staff are encouraged to notify financial institution staff in their community of this legislative change.

SB 1144, <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+ful+CHAP0443+pdf> amends Code of Virginia language regarding annual reports by guardians. The legislation incorporated grammatical and minor technical changes (e.g. adding the word *annual* prior to report), which did not drastically alter the Code content. However, new language now authorizes the circuit court to issue a summons or a show cause when a guardian fails to file an annual guardian report.