



Colorado Springs Police Department

General Order

300 At-Risk Adults

Section 300 – Special Populations

Effective Date: 3/30/2023

Supersedes Date: 4/28/2020

.01 Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to outline responses pertaining to at-risk adults.

.02 Cross Reference

[GO 104 Determining Probable Cause](#)

[GO 1070 Offense Reports](#)

[GO 1100 Investigations Procedures](#)

.03 Discussion

At-risk adults are more impacted by crime than the general population because they tend to suffer great relative deprivation, financially, physically, and psychologically, because of the mistreatment committed against them. Contacts with at-risk adults involve several procedures and conditions that differ from those pertaining to non-at-risk adults.

.04 Policy

Police officers are mandated to report all known or suspected incidents of mistreatment of an at-risk adult. Whenever an officer is dispatched to a call involving these incidents, the officer must make a thorough inquiry into the matter.

If evidence is discovered that leads the officer to suspect or conclude that the at-risk adult has been the victim of mistreatment, the officer will complete a case report.

The Crimes Against At-Risk Adults Unit (CAARA) will notify El Paso County Adult Protective Services section (APS) and the District Attorney's Office of all reports of self-neglect or mistreatment of at-risk adults within 24 hours of the report. To accomplish this mandate, it is critical that officers properly use the clearance code (#AT RISK#) for these calls to be flagged.

Reports of mistreatment of an at-risk adult can reach the department in a number of ways, including reports from mandated reporters listed in CRS § 18-6.5-108 (1)(b). All reports of mistreatment of an at-risk adult will be accepted and reviewed in accordance with this directive.

APS is responsible for conducting their own investigations into reports of self-neglect and mistreatment of at-risk adults.

.05 Definitions

Abuse: for the purposes of this directive, means non-accidental injury, serious bodily injury, death, unreasonable confinement or restraint, and unlawful sexual contact.

At-risk Adult: per CRS § 18-6.5-102, means any person who is seventy years of age or older or any person who is eighteen years of age or older and is a person with a disability as defined below.

At-risk Adult with IDD: a person who is eighteen years of age or older and is a person with an intellectual and developmental disability, as defined in CRS § 25.5-10-202 (26)(a).

- Intellectual and developmental disability that manifests before the person reaches twenty-two years of age, that constitutes a substantial disability to the affected person, and that is attributable to an intellectual and developmental disability or related conditions, including Prader-Willi syndrome, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, or other neurological conditions when the condition or conditions result in impairment of general intellectual functioning or adaptive behavior similar to that of a person with an intellectual and developmental disability.

At-risk Elder: any person who is seventy years of age or older.

Person with a Disability: means any person who is:

- Impaired due to of the loss of or permanent loss of the use of a hand or foot, blindness/permanent impairment of vision in both eyes to such a degree as to constitute virtual blindness
- Unable to walk, see, hear or speak
- Unable to breathe without mechanical assistance
- Intellectual or developmentally disabled (IDD)
- Mentally ill or mentally impaired that grossly impairs judgement or capacity to recognize reality or control behavior.
- Blind
- Receiving care and treatment for a developmental disability

Position of Trust: means assuming a responsibility, duty, or fiduciary relationship toward an at-risk adult.

Undue Influence: means the use of influence to take advantage of an at-risk person's vulnerable state of mind, neediness, pain, or emotional distress.

Mistreatment: means abuse, caretaker neglect, or exploitation.

.10 Case Reports

Officers will prepare a written report of all criminal investigations involving the mistreatment of at-risk adults. The report title will include the specific offense, the statute subparagraph, and the general offense that is enhanced by the statute (e.g.: Crimes against At-Risk Adult, Theft, § 18-6.5-103 (5) and the additional charge of § 18-4-401, Theft). The report must also include the circumstances or conditions that make the victim at-risk such as their age, intellectual disability or physical disability. The report will include a description of the circumstances that led to mistreatment or self-neglect.

Investigations should seek to obtain any documentation that identifies a potential at-risk person's medical diagnosis. When in doubt, err on the side of caution by identifying the person as at-risk. Documents that can assist the officer to determine the victim is at risk may include:

- Facility admission sheet (commonly referred to as a face sheet)
- Medical proxy documents
- Power of Attorney (POA) documents
- 504 Plan or Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

Using the hashtag (#AT RISK#) in the call screen, complete the information in the fields, and include the following information to the extent possible as defined in CRS § 18-6.5-108 Mandatory reports of mistreatment of at-risk elders and at-risk adults with IDD:

- Name, age, address and contact information of the at-risk adult
- Name, age, address and contact information of the person making the report
- Name, age, address and contact information of the at-risk adult's caretaker if any
- Name of the alleged perpetrator
- Nature and extent of the at-risk adult's injury, whether physical or financial, if any
- Nature and extent of the condition that required the report to be made
- Any other pertinent information

The incident type will be “CSPD At-Risk Adult (Over age 69)” when the victim meets any of the above at-risk definitions and the crime involves one of the following offenses:

- Criminal Negligence
- Assault in the First, Second or Third Degree
- Robbery

- Caretaker Neglect
- Sexual Assault
- Unlawful Sexual Contact
- Sexual Assault on a Child
- Sexual Assault on a Child by One in a Position of Trust
- Sexual Assault on a Client by a Psychotherapist

The incident type will be “CSPD Fraud (Over age 69)” when the victim meets any of the above at-risk definitions and the crime involves one of the following offenses:

- Theft
- Criminal Exploitation

If the officer is not sure how to interpret a given set of facts uncovered in an investigation, an incident report will be made so that the matter may be reviewed by CAARA and Adult Protective Services (APS).

.20 Reporting Requirements

CRS requires mandatory reporting for our At-Risk population. The Colorado Springs Police Department will continue to use the #AT RISK# indicator to document contacts with at-risk victims.

- Law enforcement agencies are required notify Adult Protective Services (APS) within 24 hours after receiving a report of mistreatment.
- Utilize the dispatch clearance code #AT RISK# in the call screen. Then the Crimes Against At-Risk Adults (CAARA) Unit will forward the call screen and/or report to APS and the DA within 24 business hours.
- The CAARA Unit supervisor will provide a summary report of investigations closed by CAARA to APS at the beginning of each month.
- Police investigations are initiated in addition to, not instead of, APS investigations as APS caseworkers are not equipped or trained to perform criminal investigations.
- Upon notification, APS will conduct their own investigation into the allegation.

.30 Officer Investigation

In cases where the investigation is conducted by a patrol officer, the immediate concern of the investigation will be the safety and protection of the at-risk adult.

The investigation should include:

- An interview with the at-risk adult (hearsay is not sufficient evidence with respect to the at-risk adult's condition)
- A detailed description of the abuse and/or injuries sustained
- The officer will respond to the scene of the incident, note the general condition and any evidence pertinent to the investigation
- Place any weapon or object used to injure the at-risk adult in evidence
- If necessary, have the at-risk adult transported to the hospital for medical examination. If a medical examination is made, obtain a statement from the doctor indicating the results of the medical examination and possible cause of the injuries
- Photographs should be taken of the at-risk adult's injuries or lack of injuries and the scene of the incident

.40 Follow-Up Investigation

The Crimes Against At-Risk Adults Unit in the Special Victims Section will conduct follow-up investigation for felony cases of negligence resulting in bodily injury or serious bodily injury, first, second, and third degree assaults, and sexual assaults, as described in CRS § 18-3-402, against at-risk adults that are not stranger or domestic violence crimes.

Detectives in the appropriate divisions will conduct follow-up investigations for other felony offenses.

In all misdemeanor and property crimes, patrol officers are expected to conduct an appropriate follow up investigation and make an arrest when probable cause is established.