



# Safeguarding Adults Fact Sheet 7

## **Information for Relatives and Friends**

## **Involvement of relatives & friends**

The safeguarding adult procedures are there to protect adults at risk from abuse or neglect.

It is important that if the adult at risk wants their relatives and friends to be involved within the safeguarding procedures that this happens. This will help them feel fully supported when dealing with the safeguarding concerns.

If the adult at risk gives their agreement, it will be possible to share with you the concerns for their welfare or safety. It will also be possible to involve you in meetings about how concerns or allegations are being addressed and how your relative/friend is being supported to be safe in the future. If the adult at risk decides that they do not wish for a relative or friend to be informed or involved, then that view will need to be respected. If your relative or friend does not have the mental capacity to decide this for themselves, a decision will need to be made in their 'best interests' in line with the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

Your friend or relative may have already given you a formal power to make decisions about them such as Lasting Power of Attorney for Finance or for Health and Welfare. If this is the case you will be informed and involved in the safeguarding procedures in line with the powers and responsibilities that you have been given

## **Roles within the safeguarding procedures**

Relatives or friends may have a range of roles depending on the circumstances and wishes of the adult at risk.

These may include a role in:

- Supporting the adult at risk to tell professionals what their views and wishes are and to help make sure these views are heard.
- Supporting the person through meetings.
- Sharing knowledge about the risks your relative/friend is experiencing and their support needs.
- Contributing to safety planning.
- Supporting an assessment of needs, sometimes this may include your needs as a carer.
  
- Advocating for the adult at risk according to their wishes, or in their best interests if they do not have the mental capacity to represent themselves on particular issues.

If you have questions at any time please contact the safeguarding worker who will be happy to answer your questions.

**For more information please see other available Fact Sheets:**

- Fact Sheet 1 - Safeguarding Adults from Abuse and Neglect – types of adult abuse and what you can do about it
- Fact Sheet 2 - Safeguarding Adults from Abuse and Neglect – types of adult abuse and what you can do about it (Easy read version)
- Fact Sheet 3 - What Happens when Abuse or Neglect are Reported?
- Fact Sheet 4 - What is a Planning Meeting or Planning Discussion?
- Fact Sheet 5 - What is a Safeguarding Enquiry?
- Fact Sheet 6 - What is a Safeguarding Review Meeting?
- Fact Sheet 7 - Information for Relatives and Friends
- Fact Sheet 8 - Information for Those Alleged to Have Caused Harm

The Fact Sheets and the Bath and North East Somerset Adult Multi-Agency Safeguarding Policy and Procedures are available for anyone to read at:  
<https://bcssp.bathnes.gov.uk/what-safeguarding>

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