

Proposal for a Statewide Multi Disciplinary (MDT) Protocol for Senior Abuse Investigations

Presented by
TASA Senior Abuse Protocol Committee

APAAC Meeting
 Thursday, December 4th, 2014

Arizona Attorney General
 Task Force Against Senior Abuse (TASA)

The Big Picture 

- Est. 2 – 5 million abused annually in the US
- AZ APS: 11,000+ Investigations in 2013; an all time high
- Elder domestic abuse triples risk of premature death
- Victims are 4x more likely to be admitted to a nursing home
- Victims are 3x more likely to be admitted to a hospital
- Financial exploitation causes financial losses leading to dependency on federal/state programs

Task Force Against Senior Abuse (TASA) Mission Statement 

1. Establish a direct line of communication for anyone to call or contact the Attorney General's Office seeking advice for help concerning senior abuse.
2. To identify and open those cases involving crimes, Medicaid fraud and consumer fraud.
3. To raise awareness within the community to prevent and report senior abuse and exploitation.
4. To provide communication and coordination among statewide groups and local coalitions.

TASA MDT Protocol committee



1. GOAL: development of a statewide Protocol on responding to senior abuse cases, to include physical and financial abuse.
2. Statewide Protocol will be based on the 2001 Maricopa County Attorney Protocol.
3. The MDT Committee is seeking support in the development of a protocol that can be utilized effectively statewide.
4. Similar to other protocols such as MDT Child Abuse and Domestic Violence.

Protocol Sections



1. Law Enforcement
2. Adult Protective Services
3. Ombudsman
4. Fiduciary
5. Health care community
6. Prosecutor
7. Victim advocacy

Key Stakeholders



1. Prosecutors
2. Adult Protective Services
3. Statewide Elder Abuse Coalition
4. AARP
5. AZ Governor's Council on Aging
6. Law enforcement
7. Victim Advocates
8. Maricopa Association of Governments

Action Plan Goals 

1. Individual stakeholders have been asked to review their respective sections of the original protocol.
2. Request support and input from APAAC in order to produce and implement a standardized statewide protocol.
3. Eventual implementation through legislation.

Committee Contact Information 

John Dempsey
john.dempsey@azroc.gov

Toni Brown
toni.brown@phoenix.gov

Kirstin Flores
Kirstin.Flores@azag.gov

Karen Stegenga
karen.Stegenga@mesaaaz.gov
