

## Carers and safeguarding

The Care Act recognises the key role of carers in relation to safeguarding.

Circumstances in which a carer (for example, a family member or friend) could be involved in a situation that may require a safeguarding response include:

- a carer may witness or speak up about abuse or neglect;
  - If a carer speaks up about abuse or neglect, it is essential that they are listened to and that where appropriate a safeguarding enquiry is undertaken and other agencies are involved as appropriate. Involving carers in safeguarding enquiries relating to the adult they care for, should be considered as appropriate
- a carer may experience intentional or unintentional harm from the adult they are trying to support or from professionals and organisations they are in contact with; or, a carer may unintentionally or intentionally harm or neglect the adult they support on their own or with others.
  - If a carer experiences intentional or unintentional harm from the adult they are supporting, or if a carer unintentionally or intentionally harms or neglects the adult they support, consideration should be given to:
    - i) whether, as part of the assessment and support planning process for the carer and, or, the adult they care for, support can be provided that removes or mitigates the risk of abuse. For example, the provision of training or information or other support that minimises the stress experienced by the carer. In some circumstances the carer may need to have independent representation or advocacy; in others, a carer may benefit from having such support if they are under great stress or similar; and
    - ii) whether other agencies should be involved; in some circumstances where a criminal offence is suspected this will include alerting the police, or in others the primary healthcare services may need to be involved in monitoring.

See also 'Information on Adult Safeguarding for relatives, friends and carers'  
<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gsab/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=64125&p=0>