



# Signs of neglect



Neglect occurs when somebody who has responsibility for the care of an adult fails to provide the amount and type of care that the person requires. It also includes mistreatment, such as delivering care in a way a person dislikes, ignoring or isolating them, and ignoring someone's specific care needs (including physical, medical, cultural and recreational needs).

## Signs of neglect may include:

- Poor personal hygiene
- Dirty or unhygienic environment including unsanitary and unclean living conditions
- Dehydration
- Malnutrition
- Unexplained weight loss
- Inadequate clothing
- Avoiding contact with medical or social care organisations
- Unattended or untreated health problems or injuries

If you recognise any of these signs and are concerned an adult is the victim of abuse, then it's essential you act on your concerns. 'Speaking out' about abuse could save somebody's life. If you are worried that an adult may be at risk of abuse or harm, please contact:



**023 8083 3003**  
**[southampton.gov.uk/speakout](https://southampton.gov.uk/speakout)**

If there is an immediate threat to their safety, contact the police by calling 999.