

## SECTION 1002 – Responsibility, Functions and Duties of Adult Protective Services

<b>SUMMARY STATEMENT:</b>	<p>A systematic process has been established to define the responsibilities, functions and duties of APS starting with the initial receipt of a report alleging abuse, neglect or exploitation (A/N/E) to the method of providing services.</p>
<b>BASIC CONSIDERATIONS</b>	<p>The Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services, Adult Protective Services is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing a mechanism by which reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of adults with disabilities and elder persons not living in long-term care facilities may be made;</li> <li>• Receiving and investigating all reports in a timely and thorough manner;</li> <li>• Assessing an adult's capacity to understand the situation and evaluating the degree of danger and continued risk present;</li> <li>• Providing protective services to adults with disabilities and elder persons, directly or arranging for the services needed, to prevent or alleviate further maltreatment (abuse, neglect or exploitation);</li> <li>• Honoring an individual's right to self-determination and using the least restrictive alternative in the provision of protective services;</li> <li>• Maintaining records pertaining to Adult Protective Services;</li> <li>• Coordinating with other agencies, conducting public awareness activities on the issues of adult and elder abuse; and maximizing community resources for APS clients;</li> <li>• Coordinating and cooperating with the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) and other agencies and services whose efforts are directed at protecting adults from A/N/E; and</li> <li>• Petitioning for the appointment of a guardian and/or conservator or other court ordered services when there is risk to life and the client lacks decision-making capacity.</li> </ul>

