

Green Apple Counseling

1500 10th Ave S. Ste 200 Great Falls MT, 59405 Phone: 406-866-0350

POLICY: VULNERABLE POPULATIONS: CHILD, ELDER, DISABLED VICTIMS OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT

PURPOSE: To provide guidance to all Green Apple Counseling Staff regarding identifying, treating and referring victims of child, elder, and disabled person abuse in all clinic settings.

DEFINITIONS:

- **Abuse:** The infliction of pain or injury, the infliction of mental or emotional distress, and/or sexual contact without the consent of the patient, or sexual abuse of a child.
- **Neglect:** Failure of a caregiver to supply the patient with necessary food, clothing, shelter, health care, supervision, and/or emotional needs.
- **Exploitation:** Inappropriate use of a person's identity, money, assets, property, or benefits.
- **Child:** Anyone under the age of 18.
- **Elder:** Anyone age 60 or older.
- **Disabled person:** Any person age 18 or older who has a physical or mental disability. Abuse of a child with disabilities is reported as child abuse to the Department of Child and Family Services.

Reporting Requirements:

Montana does have explicit laws requiring healthcare providers to report instances of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of children, elders, and disabled persons.

- Children under the age of 18 who are physically, emotionally, or sexually abused, neglected, or exploited must be reported to the Department of Child and Family Services Child Abuse Hotline: (866) 820-5437 (toll free, 24 hours). If the child is in immediate danger or presents with injuries or evidence, the police should also be called.

Green Apple Counseling

1500 10th Ave S. Ste 200 Great Falls MT, 59405 Phone: 406-866-0350

- Disabled adults and elder person abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation are reported to Adult Protective Services Address: 2300 12th Ave S #211, Great Falls, MT 59405
Phone: (844) 277-9300 . If they are in immediate danger or present with injuries or evidence, the police should be called.
- As mandatory reporters, employees will call when suspected abuse and file an incident report.
- If an employee of Green Apple Counseling, LLC is accused of unethical behavior towards vulnerable populations,
 - there will be an internal investigation that will be treated as an incident report.
 - The administrator will also contact the Office of Inspector General for an investigation and will be treated as an incident.