

Multidisciplinary Team Fact Sheet

What is an Adult Protection Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)?

An Adult Protection MDT is a group of professionals from various disciplines who work together to safeguard and protect adults at risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Adult Protection MDTs commit to working together toward a common goal with a shared definition of the problem they are attempting to solve. The primary purpose of an Adult Protection MDT is to collaborate in assessing, planning, coordinating, and monitoring services and interventions for adults at risk.

Benefits of Adult Protection MDTs¹

| Benefits to the MDT Members | Benefits to the Victim | Benefits to the Community |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased understanding of the adult protection system in North Carolina Reduced duplication in the investigation of and response to adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation Strengthened community networks Better access to information; improved communication among disciplines | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved access to services and supports Enhanced coordination and efficiency of services Creation of a “no-wrong-door” system More complete information about the victim is gathered Greater expertise is applied to respond to the victim Increased array of resolutions that are acceptable to the victim | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased awareness of the signs of adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation Increased participation in adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation prevention Broadening of the public and private networks that support vulnerable adults Extended reach of limited resources |

“An MDT gives everyone involved the opportunity to know the team players in the other fields that protect adults, which in turn gives you contacts to reach out to for advice or assistance when encountering an adult in need of services for protection.”

- Marjorie J. Brown, JD, Elder Law & Estate Planning Solutions of the Piedmont, Cabarrus County Member

Adult Protection MDT Participants

The question of who should participate in an MDT depends on the needs and resources of the particular community, as well as on the purpose of the MDT. Some MDTs meet to conduct case reviews, and others meet to discuss systemic issues. The composition of an MDT may grow and change over time. When starting an MDT, it may be preferable to build a strong foundation with a small group prior to expanding.

MDT members frequently include:

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| <i>Adult Protective Services staff</i> | <i>Financial institution representatives</i> | <i>Law enforcement</i> | <i>Public Guardians</i> |
| <i>Area Agency on Aging staff</i> | <i>Guardian ad litem attorneys</i> | <i>Medical professionals</i> | <i>Long-term Care Ombudsmen</i> |
| <i>Clerks of Court</i> | <i>Judges</i> | <i>Mental health professionals</i> | <i>Prosecutors</i> |
| | | <i>Legal Aid attorneys</i> | <i>Victim advocates</i> |

Types of MDTs

| Case Review | Systemic Review |
|--|--|
| Case review MDTs meet to discuss complex adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation cases. Team membership generally includes professionals who can legally share confidential information regarding the alleged victim. Cases may be anonymized for discussion when team members cannot legally share confidential information. | Systemic review MDTs meet to discuss systemic problems in their community and attempt to address service gaps and barriers to service delivery to victims of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. |

“MDTs represent the best of community collaboration. As Helen Keller said, ‘Alone we can do little; together we can do so much!’”

-Joyce Massey-Smith, Director, North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services

MORE INFORMATION

For additional information regarding Adult Protection Multidisciplinary Teams, contact the UNC School of Government Adult Protection Network Help Desk at protectadults.sog.unc.edu/help-desk.

¹MDT Elder Justice Toolkit: U.S. Dep’t of Just., Elder Justice Initiative, Developing an Elder Abuse Case Review Multidisciplinary Team in Your Community (revised Sept. 2016), pg. 7-8, <https://www.justice.gov/elderjustice/file/938921/download>.