

Abuse Policy

Everyone deserves to be safe. Contact Hamilton and Developmental Services Ontario Hamilton-Niagara Region want to make sure that everyone who comes to any of our offices stays safe. This means that our staff will not harm you (harming you is called Abuse). If you tell us that anyone else has harmed you, we will help you.

Abuse can happen in many ways.

Physical abuse – when someone hurts you on purpose (hits you or kicks you or slaps you)

Emotional abuse – when someone makes you feel bad about yourself (calls you names, swears at you, makes fun of you because of who you are or how you live your life)

Sexual abuse – when someone touches a private part of your body without permission or makes you touch a private part of their body when you do not want to

Financial abuse – when someone takes your money, forces you to give them money, or tricks you into giving them your money

If you tell us that you have been abused or if we think that someone is abusing you, you need to tell someone. If you do, our staff have steps that they will take to help you. That includes calling the police. They will also get any other help for you that you need.

It is hard to tell when someone has hurt you – it takes courage - but we cannot help you unless you do. When you tell someone, they must call the police because it is against the law for someone to do those things to you. The police will have to ask you questions, but they will make sure that you are safe. Our staff will also help make sure that you stay safe.

Our staff will talk to you about this when they meet with you and you can ask them any questions that you have.