

## **Factsheet 2**

# **Safeguarding Adults – Information for family and friends**

February 2016  
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## Involvement of relatives & friends

The Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Adults Board Multi-Agency safeguarding adult procedures help to protect adults from the risk of abuse or neglect. The Safeguarding procedures explain the steps of a Safeguarding Enquiry.

It is important that if the adult wants their relatives and friends to be involved within the safeguarding procedures that they are. This will help them to feel fully supported when dealing with difficult or distressing issues.

If the adult gives their consent, it will be possible to share with you the concerns for their welfare or safety. It will also be possible to involve you within meetings about how concerns or allegations are being addressed and how your relative/friend is being supported to be safe in the future.

A Safeguarding Enquiry may need to be undertaken to establish the facts about safeguarding concerns.

If the adult decides that they do not wish for a relative or friend to be informed or involved, then those involved in the safeguarding arrangements will need to respect this decision. If your relative or friend does not have the mental capacity to decide this for themselves, a decision will need to be made in their 'best interests' in line with the Mental Capacity Act.

## Roles within the safeguarding procedures

Relatives or friends may have a range of roles depending on the circumstances and wishes of the adult.

These may include a role in:

- supporting the adult to tell professionals what their views and wishes are and to help make sure these views are heard
- supporting the person through difficult meetings or interviews about distressing experiences
- sharing knowledge about the risks your relative/friend is experiencing and their support needs
- contributing to the Safeguarding Protection Plan; this is a record of the agreed actions that will keep the person safe from harm
- supporting an assessment of needs, sometimes this may include your needs if you are a carer for your relative/friend.
- advocating for the adult according to their wishes, or in their best interests if they do not have the mental capacity to represent themselves on particular issues.

## If I have questions, who can I speak to?

If an Enquiry is being undertaken, you can ask to speak to the Safeguarding Enquiry Practitioner or the Safeguarding Adults Manager about the procedures being followed. You may wish to record their contact details here:

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If a Strategy Meeting has already been arranged, you may also wish to speak to the Safeguarding Adults Manager on 0300 303 8886.

## Other Information

This is one of a series of factsheets produced by the RBSAB. The factsheets available are:

**Factsheet 1:** What happens when abuse is reported – Information for adults who may be being abused or neglected

**Factsheet 2:** Safeguarding Adults – Information for family and friends

**Factsheet 3:** The stages of the Safeguarding process?

**Factsheet 4:** What is a Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiry?

**Factsheet 5:** What is a Section 42 Strategy Meeting?

**Factsheet 6:** Safeguarding Adult Reviews – Information for families and carers

**Factsheet 7:** Information for a person alleged to have caused harm

**Factsheet 8:** What happens after you report a safeguarding adults concern?  
Understanding the Safeguarding Process

All the factsheets are available at  
[www.rochdalesafeguarding.com](http://www.rochdalesafeguarding.com)

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**Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Adults Board**

**is committed to Safeguarding Adults**

**and will continue to establish a society**

**where there is zero tolerance to adult abuse.**