**Adult Protection Multidisciplinary**

**“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

**“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, Division of Aging and Adult Services, NCDHHS

**Team (MDT) Fa**ct **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 who are 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 main 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 MDTs**

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| --- | --- |
| **Benefits to Victims**   * Improve access to services and supports * Enhance coordination and efficiency of services * Create a “no-wrong-door” system * Gather more complete information about victim * Apply greater expertise on behalf of victim * Offer an increased array of acceptable resolutions to victim | **Benefits to Team Members**   * Reduce duplication in the investigation of and response to adult abuse, neglect and exploitation * Increase understanding of the adult protection system * Strengthen community networks * Provide better communication across disciplines |
| **Benefits to the Community**   * Increase awareness of the signs of adult abuse, neglect and exploitation * Increase participation in adult abuse prevention * Broaden public and private networks that support disabled and older adults * Extend reach of limited resources | |

## Adult Protection MDT Participants

The question of who should participate on an MDT will depend 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. It may be preferable when starting out for an MDT to have a small group upon which it can build a strong foundation. Members often include:



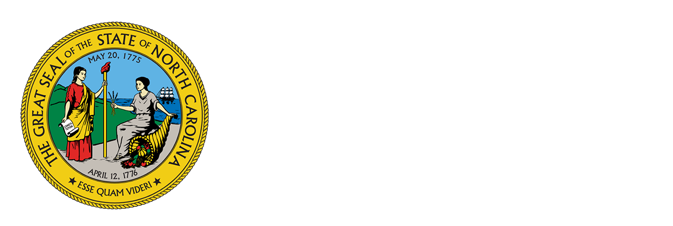
## Types of MDTs

**Case Review**

Case review MDTs meet to discuss complex cases of adult abuse, neglect and exploitation. Team membership is generally comprised of those professionals who are legally able to share confidential information regarding the alleged victim. Cases may be anonymized for discussion when team members are not legally able to share confidential information.

**Systemic Review**

Systemic review MDTs meet to discuss systemic problems in their community and attempt to address gaps in services, and barriers to service delivery to victims of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Source: Smith, M. S., & Wall, A. N. (2020). *Legal Framework for North Carolina’s Elder Protection System*.   
School of Government, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

[www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/aging-and-adult-services/adult-protective-services](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/aging-and-adult-services/adult-protective-services)  
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