

## Vulnerable Adults

Written by Ministry

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**Who is a 'vulnerable adult'?** Vulnerable Adults are defined broadly as elderly people, those who have disabilities – learning, physical or sensory – or who are mentally ill or who are in prison, etc. In order to 'qualify' the person has to be in receipt of services, health or social care, related to their 'vulnerability'. Vulnerability does not necessarily extend to the whole of a person's lifestyle but often comes about as a result of needing help in particular areas for example personal care or money management. Others are vulnerable because of their personal situation such as those who are in prison.

### **Does everyone who works with vulnerable adults have to hold a Disclosure?**

The first criterion to apply is whether the work involves working with vulnerable adults within the terms set out above.

The second criterion is that the job must be exempt from the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974; this means that only certain jobs allow for questions about a person's history are allowed to be asked

The CRB rules only allow for those who "regularly care for, train, supervise or are in sole charge of vulnerable adults" to apply for an Enhanced Disclosure.

This means that only the following kinds of services entitle an Enhanced Disclosure to be supplied:

- a) Accommodation and nursing or personal care in care homes
  
- b) Personal care or supports to enable someone live independently in their own home.
  
- c) Any services provided by an independent hospital, independent clinic, independent medical agency or NHS body.

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d) Social care services

e) Any services provided in an establishment chartering for people with learning difficulties.

From time it is brought up to date to reflect changes in legislation and developing thinking. These updates are advertised in [Transform](#) .

For further information go to the Criminal Records Bureau link on the right hand side of the page.

Standard Disclosures may be applied for where the job is "concerned with the provision of care services to vulnerable adults and which is of such a kind to enable the holder of that employment or the person engaged in that work to have access to vulnerable adults in receipt of such services in the course of normal duties."

This definition will cover most people who are working in projects at church that are concerned with vulnerable adults.

If a vulnerable adult is attending an activity that is not specific to their special status, then a Disclosure is not to be requested by leaders or other workers because the activity is aimed at the general population.