

**Adult Protection**

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As per the Scottish Adult Support and Protection 2007 Act, adults at risk are individuals aged 16 and over who are unable to safeguard themselves, their property, interests, or rights and are at risk of harm. They are more vulnerable due to a disability, mental illness, disorder or physical and/or mental infirmity compared to those without. However, a disability does not automatically mean they are an adult at risk, and as such, all three elements must be present to be classed as an adult at risk.

Adults at risk of harm could be from psychological, physical, actions which lead to self-harm or unlawful conduct that effects the person’s property, rights, or interests.

Abuse is when an individual violates another person’s human or civil rights. Anyone can be an abuser, and often anybody who experiences abuse, is also emotionally abused.

To prevent this from happening, a set of standards has been created in aid of protecting at risk adults. These include:

* Only providing treatments that are beneficial to the client, and the least restrictive option.
* Taking into consideration past and present feelings and wishes of the client.
* Taking into consideration if they have a guardian, primary carer, or attorney and as such assessing whether it is appropriate to have treatments done.
* If it is appropriate, then providing all the necessary information about the treatment options, risks, pros and cons of treatment and any required additional support to both the client and their relative, primary carer, guardian, or attorney.
* Making sure that the client is given the same standard of care as any other client.
* This includes the client’s sexual orientation, race, gender, age, ethnic origin, religious persuasion, or cultural heritage.

Refine Beauty Aesthetics takes safeguarding adults very seriously and will ensure that the policy reflects the rights and dignity of all adults regardless of age, gender, ethnic origin, religious persuasion, abilities, culture, or sexual orientation.

Refine Beauty Aesthetics has a duty to do everything possible to prevent, report or tackle abuse wherever it is encountered for all clients. Any allegations or suspicions will be treated very seriously and will be responded to in a swift and appropriate manner. If harm is suspected, alleged, or proven, appropriate steps will be made to report to the necessary local processes and/or the police/social work. As Robyn is a sole practitioner, contact details for the police, signposting to the local council’s and Healthcare Improvement Scotland’s website details will be provided at the bottom of this policy for any clients who have concerns regarding adult protection.

Should any allegations of abuse be suspected, clear and concise information shall be documented and stored securely with the rules of confidentiality carefully followed. Should the complaint be regarding Robyn, a report can also be submitted to the NMC when appropriate.

Emergency situations:

Should there be concerns of immediate danger or a violent situation regarding a vulnerable adult, police shall be called on 999.

Should any injury be present, emergency first aid will be provided, and an ambulance called if required.

Should the abuser be present and pose a further risk to the client and/or Robyn, police shall be called. Robyn will follow procedure on de-escalation and response to abuse or violent behaviour. Robyn has completed several Turas modules on adult protection, safeguarding and violent situations/de-escalation methods to support this.

Should any of this occur, Robyn shall follow four steps which include, ensuring safety for herself and the client, preserving any evidence, contacting the necessary local authority, and writing a report as soon as possible which is safely secured.

As an advanced nurse and aesthetics practitioner, Robyn has a duty of care to report any signs of abuse. Should the client request that it not be reported, explanation will be given to the client around the duty to report. Robyn will offer support to the client during this process. Robyn will remain calm, be sympathetic, listen, treat the information provided seriously and gather any medical evidence required if appropriate (and with the client’s consent). Robyn will notify the client of the next steps, including who she will report to (eg. GP practice, police, or social work) and provide reassurance that the information will only be passed to the appropriate and relevant practitioner or authority. Robyn will document the circumstances around the discussion and what exactly was said or explained by the client, where the conversation took place, who was there and if there are any physical injuries. At all times, Robyn will take into consideration the other Refine Beauty Aesthetics policies in place, including confidentiality and information management.

**Contact details for local authorities:**

Police Scotland – emergency number 999 or non-emergent 101.

Fife Council Adult Protection Line - 01383 602200 or website for more information <https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/health-and-social-care2/help-for-adults-and-older-people/adult-support-and-protection>

Healthcare Improvement Scotland - <https://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/our_work/inspecting_and_regulating_care/adult_support_and_protection.aspx>

The Nursing and Midwifery Council - <https://www.nmc.org.uk/about-us/our-role/our-safeguarding-policy/>