



## **WHAT DOES A SUBSTANTIATED FINDING MEAN?**

If APS decides the allegations of abuse, neglect, abandonment, or financial exploitation are “substantiated”, you can request a hearing if you disagree with the finding. If the APS decision is upheld at the end of the hearing process, your name will be placed on a registry.

**Being on the registry means you may not be able to work or volunteer anywhere you might have unsupervised contact with vulnerable adults or children. There is currently no way to get your name off the registry.**

## **CAN I CHALLENGE AN APS DECISION?**

- If APS decides the alleged incident is UNSUBSTANTIATED or INCONCLUSIVE you do not need to do anything.
- If APS decides the alleged incident is SUBSTANTIATED and you do not agree you may request a hearing. The APS letter will tell you how.

**You only have until 5:00 p.m. on the 30th calendar day to request a hearing from the date the department’s letter of notice is mailed or personally served upon you, whichever occurs first.**

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

You can get more information about APS online at <http://www.altsa.dshs.wa.gov/aps/>.