



## One Minute Guide:

### for adult safeguarding professionals: How to respond to referrers who wish to remain anonymous

#### Confidentiality and Anonymity

**1.1** The safety and welfare of the adult at risk overrides all other considerations, including the following:

- Confidentiality.
- The gathering of evidence.
- Commitment or loyalty to relatives, friends or colleagues.

**1.2** For further details, see [Multi agency Information sharing agreement \(stopadultabuse.org.uk\)](https://stopadultabuse.org.uk)

**1.3** The overriding consideration must be the welfare of the adult at risk - for this reason, absolute confidentiality cannot and should not be promised to anyone.

**1.4** Individual members of the public who make a referral may prefer not to give their name or alternatively they may disclose their identity, but not wish for it to be revealed to the adult at risk concerned.

**1.5** Wherever possible, Adult Social Care workers receiving referrals from members of the public should respect the referrer's request for anonymity. However, referrers should not be given any guarantees of confidentiality, as there are certain limited circumstances in which the identity of a referrer may have to be given e.g., the Criminal or Court arena. The referrer's request for anonymity must be recorded on Liquid Logic.

**1.6** A professional making a referral should not expect anonymity. However, in exceptional circumstances where disclosure to third parties could endanger the referrer, managers should assess risk and if necessary, agree anonymity at this juncture. Professionals making referrals cannot choose to remain anonymous however it is acknowledged that on occasions a professional may need to make a referral as a result of something they have seen, heard or been told in their private life. In this situation it is important they are able to remain anonymous if needed in order to ensure their own safety or their families. Such a referral should be made by the usual route and in making this referral the individual is responsible for ensuring they adhere to any expected code of professional conduct.