

Maryland Judiciary
Signs of Self-Neglect

Self-neglect happens when a person refuses to care for him or herself. It is often associated with declining health and mental health issues such as dementia, substance abuse, depression, and significant mental illness.

Signs of self-neglect include a failure to take care of one's own food, clothing, personal hygiene, or medical needs. You may also notice malnutrition, dehydration, and untreated or improperly-treated medical conditions. A person's environment can also exhibit signs of self-neglect. There may be hoarding, cluttering, unsafe or unsanitary living conditions such as poor wiring, no heat, or bad plumbing.

As a guardian, it's important to be watchful for signs of self-neglect in the person under your guardianship and in their living environment.