



## WHAT IS A MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM (MDT)?

MDTs are defined as a group of people comprised of representatives from three or more disciplines working collaboratively, bound by a common purpose, with a shared definition of the problem they are addressing.

## CLICK ON HEADINGS FOR TIPS FOR STARTING AN MDT

What type of structure will work best for your community?  
What agencies and organizations should be involved in starting your team?

- Clearly understand and agree upon interpretations of your state laws and statutes
- Identify someone to serve as the **coordinator**
- Create MOUs for participating agencies
- Write **protocols**

What is the purpose of your team? Having a clear mission and vision early in the process of developing your team will help to keep everyone on track, working toward the same outcomes and providing clarity about how to measure success.

The core of your MDT is the case review meeting itself. Ensure that presenters have the support they need to bring their case to the meeting by providing clear information about intake policy and procedures, presentation guidelines and by providing emotional support as needed.

Think about who is needed to resolve elder abuse cases effectively and efficiently. Common core members may include:

- Adult Protective Services (APS)
- Aging services network personnel
- Geriatricians/physicians
- Law enforcement
- Prosecutors (District Attorneys)
- Psychologists/neuropsychologists
- Victim-witness advocates/victim service providers

Create a mechanism for evaluating team performance and making needed adjustments. Managing an MDT requires ongoing commitment and resources.

Maintain periodic and ongoing training, both formal and informal, particularly as new members arrive, protocols and policies change, and the political landscape **shifts**. EJI has many **educational resources and webinars** that may help your team.

1. Shared Decision-Making
2. Partnership
3. Interdependency
4. Balanced Power
5. Transparent Process