



Lifespan Caring Network

Respite Care Training Program

Abuse & Neglect

*Adapted and used with permission from "Lifespan Respite Training Manual" published by the Respite Care Association of Wisconsin



Topics Covered:

- ✿ Elder Abuse
- ✿ Child Abuse and Neglect
- ✿ Mandated Reporting

Disclaimer: The following information about abuse and neglect refers to Illinois state laws.



Elder Abuse in Illinois

Abuse takes many forms, and in most cases victims are subjected to more than one type of mistreatment. In Illinois, 54% of adult abuse reports allege financial exploitation; approximately 23% allege physical abuse; 52% allege active or passive neglect; and 43% allege emotional abuse.



Adult Protective Services Program

- ▶ Effective July 1, 2013, legislation was passed by the General Assembly to expand the Department's current Elder Abuse and Neglect Program (now Adult Protective Services Program) to prevent abuse, neglect and financial exploitation of people with disabilities between the ages of 18-59 living in the community.
- ▶ The Adult Protective Services Program is locally coordinated through 45 provider agencies, which are designated by the regional Area Agency on Aging and the Department on Aging. Case workers from these agencies conduct investigations and work with older adults in resolving abusive situations. All Adult Protective Services caseworkers are trained and certified by the Department.

Reporting Suspected Elder Abuse

- ▶ To report suspected abuse, financial exploitation or neglect of an older person or a person with disabilities age 18-59 call the statewide, 24-hour **Adult Protective Services Hotline: 1-866-800-1409, 1-888-206-1327 (TTY).**
- ▶ For residents who live in nursing facilities, call the Illinois Department of Public Health's Nursing Home Complaint Hotline: **1-800-252-4343.**
- ▶ For residents who live in Supportive Living Facilities (SLFs), call the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services' SLF Complaint Hotline: **1-800-226-0768.**

Reporting Suspected Elder Abuse, cont.

The reporter should be prepared to answer the following questions to the best of their ability...

- ▶ The alleged victim's name, address, telephone number, sex, age and general condition;
- ▶ The alleged abuser's name, sex, age, relationship to victim and condition;
- ▶ The circumstances which lead the reporter to believe that the older person is being abused, neglected or financially exploited, with as much specificity as possible;
- ▶ Whether the alleged victim is in immediate danger, the best time to contact the person, if he or she knows of the report, and if there is any danger to the worker going out to investigate;
- ▶ Whether the reporter believes the client could make a report themselves;
- ▶ The name, telephone number and profession of the reporter;
- ▶ The names of others with information about the situation;
- ▶ If the reporter is willing to be contacted again; and, Any other relevant information.

Confidentiality

All reports and records of the Adult Protective Services Program are subject to strict confidentiality provisions, except as provided by law or court order.



Definitions of Elder Abuse

- ▶ Physical Abuse – causing the infliction of physical pain or injury to an older person.
- ▶ Sexual abuse – touching, fondling, or any other sexual activity with an older person when the older person is unable to understand, unwilling to consent, threatened, or physically forced.
- ▶ Emotional abuse – verbal assaults, threats of abuse, harassment, or intimidation so as to compel the older person to engage in conduct from which she or he has a right to abstain or to refrain from conduct in which the older person has a right to engage.
- ▶ Confinement – restraining or isolating an older person for other than medical reasons.
- ▶ Passive neglect – the failure by a caregiver to provide an older person with the necessities of life including, but not limited to, food, clothing, shelter, or medical care, because of failure to understand the older person's needs, lack of awareness of services to help meet needs, or lack of capacity to care for the older person.
- ▶ Willful deprivation – willfully denying assistance to an older person who requires medication, medical care, shelter, food, therapeutic device, or other physical assistance, thereby exposing that person to the risk of harm.
- ▶ Financial exploitation – the misuse or withholding of an older person's resources to the disadvantage of the elderly person and/or the profit or advantage of another person.

Source: IL Department of Aging website



Child Abuse and Neglect Program

- ▶ DCFS has the primary responsibility of protecting children through the investigation of suspected abuse or neglect by parents and other caregivers in a position of trust or authority over the child.
- ▶ Call the 24-hour Child Abuse Hotline at **800-25-ABUSE (800-252-2873)** or **TTY 1-800-358-5117** if you suspect that a child has been harmed or is at risk of being harmed by abuse or neglect. If you believe a child is in immediate danger of harm, call 911 first. Your confidential call will not only make sure the child is safe, but also help provide the child's family the services they need to provide a safe, loving and nurturing home.

What is Child Abuse and Neglect?

Child abuse is the mistreatment of a child under the age of 18 by:

- ▶ A parent or their romantic partner;
- ▶ An immediate relative or someone living in their home;
- ▶ A caretaker such as a babysitter or daycare worker; or
- ▶ Any person responsible for the child's welfare, such as a health care provider, educator, coach or youth program volunteer.
- ▶ The mistreatment can either result in injury or put the child at serious risk of injury. Child abuse can be physical (i.e. bruises or broken bones), sexual (i.e. fondling or incest), or mental (emotional injury or psychological illness).
- ▶ Neglect is the failure of a parent or caretaker to meet "minimal parenting" standards for providing adequate supervision, food, clothing, medical care, shelter or other basic needs.



Physical Neglect

- ▶ Physical neglect is defined in the statute as “failure, refusal or inability on the part of a parent, guardian, legal custodian or other person exercising temporary or permanent control over a child, for reasons other than poverty, to provide necessary care, food, clothing, medical or dental care or shelter so as to seriously endanger the physical health of the child.”



Signs of Physical Neglect

- ▶ Poor hygiene, odor
- ▶ Inappropriately dressed for the weather
- ▶ Needs medical or dental care
- ▶ Left alone; unsupervised for long periods
- ▶ Failure to thrive; malnutrition
- ▶ Constant hunger; begs or steals food
- ▶ Extreme willingness to please
- ▶ Frequent absence from school
- ▶ Arrives early and stays late at school or play areas or other people's homes

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is defined as “physical injury inflicted on a child by other than accidental means. This includes non-accidental injury inflicted by any other person. ‘Physical injury’ includes but is not limited to lacerations, fractured bones, burns, internal injuries, severe or frequent bruising or great bodily harm,” as defined in s. 939.22(14).





Signs of Physical Abuse

- Bruises, welts on face, neck, chest, back
- Injuries in the shape of an object (belt, cord)
- Unexplained burns on palms, soles of feet, back
- Fractures that do not fit the story of how an injury occurred
- Delay in seeking medical help
- Extremes in behavior: very aggressive or withdrawn and shy
- Afraid to go home
- Frightened of parents
- Fearful of other adults



Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is defined by cross-referencing several crimes in other sections of the statutes. Briefly, sexual abuse includes the following:

- ▶ Any person having sexual intercourse or sexual contact with a child 15 years of age or younger
- ▶ Any person having sexual intercourse or sexual contact with a 16 or 17 year old child without his or her consent
- ▶ Any person inducing a child to engage in sexually explicit conduct in order to videotape, photograph, etc., a child for such purposes, or producing, distributing, selling or otherwise profiting from such a videotape, photograph, etc.
- ▶ Any person responsible for a child's welfare encouraging or permitting the child to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of videotaping, photographing, etc.
- ▶ Any person causing a child to view or listen to sexual activity
- ▶ Any person exposing genitals to a child
- ▶ Any person permitting or encouraging a child to engage in prostitution



Signs of Sexual Abuse

- ▶ Pain, swelling or itching in genital area
- ▶ Bruises, bleeding, discharge in genital area
- ▶ Difficulty walking or sitting, frequent urination, pain
- ▶ Stained or bloody underclothing
- ▶ Venereal disease
- ▶ Refusal to take part in gym or other exercises
- ▶ Poor peer relationships
- ▶ Unusual interest in sex for age
- ▶ Drastic change in school achievement
- ▶ Runaway or delinquent behavior
- ▶ Regressive or childlike behavior

Emotional Damage

Emotional damage is defined as “emotional damage for which the child’s parent, guardian or legal custodian has neglected, refused or been unable, for reasons other than poverty, to obtain necessary treatment or to take steps to ameliorate the symptoms.”





Signs of Emotional Damage

- Low self-esteem
 - Self-denigration
 - Severe depression
 - Unusual level of aggression
 - Severe anxiety
 - Extreme withdrawal
 - Failure to learn
- 



Neglect vs. Abuse

Child neglect and emotional damage involve failure on the part of the parent or other persons responsible for a child to provide necessary care for a child. In most cases, the parties involved are family members, and solutions involve interventions with the family. In some of the cases, court intervention is required to assure safety, and to order services for the family.

Physical abuse and sexual abuse include harm to a child by any other person. Therefore, physical or sexual abuse of a child by a parent, sibling, or other family member is included as well as assaults by strangers, persons unrelated to a child's family, and peers. In cases where the child is harmed by someone outside of the family, county agency interventions with the family do not provide all of the solutions.

In many cases, law enforcement involvement through the criminal justice system is necessary to intervene with the person who harmed the child.



Something To Consider...

Major signs of neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional damage were discussed throughout this section.

One of these, or even several in combination, may not necessarily indicate that abuse has occurred. They may indicate accidents, or that medical conditions, emotional illness, or other problems exist.

If a number of these signs occur together or if they recur frequently, child abuse or neglect may be suspected.



Mandated Reporters

If you suspect abuse or neglect you have a social responsibility to report it to the hotline. In addition, state law requires that most professionals in education, health care, law enforcement and social work report suspected neglect or abuse. These individuals are called Mandated Reporters.

The list also includes: supervisors and administrators of general assistance under the Illinois Public Aid Code. Other mandated reporters include social workers, social service administrators, substance abuse treatment personnel, domestic violence program personnel, crisis line or hotline personnel, foster parents, homemakers, recreational program or facility personnel, registered psychologists and assistants working under the direct supervision of a psychologist.

Source: IL DCFS website

List of Mandated Reporters

- physicians
- physician assistants
- psychiatrists, surgeons
- residents
- interns
- dentists
- dental hygienists
- medical examiners
- pathologists
- osteopaths
- coroners
- Christian Science practitioners
- chiropractors
- podiatrists
- registered and licensed practical nurses
- emergency medical technicians
- hospital administrators and other personnel involved in the examination care or treatment of patients
- teachers
- school personnel
- educational advocates assigned to a child pursuant to the School Code
- directors and staff assistants of day care centers and nursery schools
- child care workers
- truant officers
- probation officers
- law enforcement officers
- animal control officers
- field personnel of the Departments of Children and Family Services, Public Health, Public Aid, Human Services (acting as successor to the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Rehabilitation Services, or Public Aid), Corrections and Human Rights