

Suspicious Death Reports. The APS Act was also amended to require provider agencies to immediately notify law enforcement, the coroner or medical examiner if there is reason to believe that the death of an older adult or adult with a disability may be a result of abuse or neglect.

FY 2015 Accomplishments

B*SAFE (Bankers and Seniors Against Financial Exploitation). During Fiscal Year 2015, provider agencies conducted training with 46 banks and financial institutions, which resulted in 769 bank employees being trained. Financial institutions conducted 74 trainings to 522 employees. Seven trainings were conducted with 112 seniors.

28th Annual Conference. The Department hosted its 28th Annual Conference on August 20-22, 2014, at the Oak Brook Hills Resort in Oak Brook, Illinois. Dr. Laura Mosqueda, Professor of Family Medicine and Geriatrics at the University of Southern California, Keck School of Medicine was the keynote speaker. Dr. Mosqueda presented on red flags that should alert us to the possibility of mistreatment and the need for an interdisciplinary approach. Shirley Paceley, Director, Blue Tower Training, Decatur, Illinois, presented a session on a trauma-informed approach to abuse investigation and how trauma affects persons with a disability. Megan Blomquist, Rape Victim Advocates, and Linda Sandman, UIC Institute on Disability and Human Development, both from Chicago, presented on understanding sexual violence and how it impacts the lives of survivors with disabilities. Theresa Covington, MPH, National Center for the Review and Prevention of Child Deaths in Washington, D.C., presented on improving the identification, diagnosis, systems response and prevention of fatal abuse in elders. Jason E. Schillerstrom, MD, Associate Professor, Director of Psychiatry Residency Training Program at the University of Texas, discussed the process of assessing decisional capacity in elders referred to a physician for assessment. Marty Richards, MSW, LICSW, Affiliate Assistant Professor, University of Washington School of Social Work in Seattle, Washington presented at the conference luncheon and closing session on keeping hope and heart alive in difficult times and challenges for service

providers. The conference was attended by over 400 participants in law enforcement, legal services, social services and long term care ombudsman. The Department also hosted its 3rd Annual Summit on Prevention of Elder Financial Fraud and Abuse. The summit was a full day, packed with information from experts on financial exploitation. Presenters included Manuel Flores, the Acting Secretary of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation and Nora Dowd Eisenhower, who joined the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to serve as the Assistant Director of its Office of Financial Protection for Older Americans, which is dedicated to helping older consumers make sound financial decisions, protect their assets and avoid financial abuse. Terry Savage, nationally known expert on personal finance, the markets, and the economy was the luncheon speaker. Other presenters included Ron Long, with Wells Fargo, Rayleen Pirnie, the Director of Compliance and Fraud for the Electronic Payments Core of Knowledge, C. Steven Baker, the Director of the Federal Trade Commission's Midwest Region in Chicago and Bruce Reppert, the Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of Illinois and serves as the Chief of the Fraud & Corruption Section of the office.

How does a person make an abuse report?

Anyone who suspects that an older adult or an adult with a disability is being mistreated should call the Illinois Department on Aging Abuse Hotline:

1-866-800-1409

TTY: 1-888-206-1327

All calls are confidential.

**State of Illinois
Department on Aging**
One Natural Resources Way, #100
Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
Senior HelpLine: 1-800-252-8966
www.illinois.gov/aging

The Illinois Department on Aging does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in compliance with appropriate State and Federal Statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, call the Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966, 1-888-206-1327 (TTY).

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State of Illinois
Illinois Department on Aging



Adult Protective Services

Annual Report FY 2015



Illinois Department
on Aging

How many reports of abuse were received?

During the period of July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015, there were 14,858 reports of abuse received by the program, which included, 2,723 reports involving adults with a disability age 18-59.

What is abuse?

Abuse refers to the following types of mistreatment of any Illinois resident 60 years of age or older and any adult with a disability age 18–59 who lives in the community and is abused by another person.

Physical Abuse — causing the infliction of physical pain or injury to an eligible adult.

Sexual Abuse — touching, fondling, or any other sexual activity with person when the 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 eligible adult to engage in conduct from which s/he has a right to abstain or to refrain from conduct in which the eligible adult has a right to engage.

Confinement — restraining or isolating an eligible adult for other than medical reasons.

Passive Neglect — another individual's failure to provide an eligible adult with the necessities of life including, but not limited to, food, clothing, shelter, or medical care, because of failure to understand the eligible adult's needs, lack of awareness of services to help meet needs, or lack of capacity to care for the eligible adult.

Willful Deprivation — willfully denying assistance to an eligible adult 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 eligible adult's resources to the disadvantage of the eligible adult and/or the profit or advantage of another person.

Illinois Law

The Illinois Department on Aging administers the statewide Adult Protective Services (APS) Program, under the authority of the Adult Protective Services Act (320ILCS 20/1 et seq.) to respond to reports of alleged mistreatment of any Illinois citizen 60 years or older and any adult with a disability age 18-59 who lives in the community at the time of the report.

The APS Act is locally coordinated through 42 provider agencies, which are designated by the Regional Administrative Agencies (RAAs) and the Department on Aging. All Adult Protective Services Caseworkers are trained and certified by the Department, which promulgates the Program's policies and procedures and oversees the monitoring of services through the RAAs.

Depending on the nature and seriousness of the allegations, a trained caseworker will make a face-to-face contact with the alleged victim within the following time frames: 24 hours for life threatening situations, 72 hours for most neglect and non-life threatening physical abuse reports, and seven calendar days for most financial exploitation and emotional abuse reports.

The caseworker has 30 days to do a comprehensive assessment, both to determine if the client has been mistreated and to determine his/her need for services and interventions. If the abuse is substantiated, the caseworker involves the eligible adult in the development of a case plan to alleviate the situation. The caseworker always attempts to utilize the least restrictive alternatives that will allow the eligible adult to remain independent to the degree possible.

Limited Mandatory Reporting. Applies to persons delivering professional services to eligible adults, including but not limited to the following fields: social services, adult day care, law enforcement, education, medical, state service to seniors, paramedics, and social work. The requirements for limited mandatory reporting apply when the reporter believes that the eligible adult is not capable of reporting the abuse himself/herself. The law also encourages any person to report voluntarily for an eligible adult, and provides immunity from liability and professional disciplinary action for anyone making such an abuse report in good faith.

Self-Neglect. Effective January 1, 2007, the Adult Protective Services Act was amended to include self–neglect. The amendment established that responding to such cases would be contingent upon sufficient funding. In the absence of sufficient funding for statewide implementation, provider agencies began receiving reports of self–neglect and referring the reports on to the appropriate agency(s) for follow–up. The APS providers received 2,250 self–neglect reports in Fiscal Year 2015.

Abuse Fatality Review Teams.

The APS Act includes provisions that the Director of the Department on Aging, in consultation with an Advisory Council, law enforcement and other professionals who work in the fields of investigating, treating or preventing abuse or neglect of at–risk adults, shall appoint members to a minimum of one review team in each of the Department's Planning and Services Areas (PSAs). Each member of a review team shall be appointed for a 2–year term and shall be eligible for reappointment upon the expiration of the term. A review team's purpose is conducting reviews of at–risk adult deaths to assist local agencies in identifying and reviewing suspicious deaths of adult victims of alleged, suspected or substantiated abuse or neglect in domestic living situations; to facilitate communications between officials responsible for autopsies and inquests and persons involved in reporting or investigating alleged or suspected cases of abuse, neglect or financial exploitation of at–risk adults and persons involved in providing services to at–risk adults; to evaluate means by which the death might have been prevented; and to report its findings to the appropriate agency and Advisory Council and make recommendations that may help to reduce the number of at–risk adults and increase prosecutions, if appropriate. At Risk Fatality Review Teams were formed in PSAs 01, 02, 06 and 07 in 2014. PSAs 03, 04, 09 and 10 formed teams in 2015.

Adult Protective Services Act. As a result of the passing of the Adult Protective Services Act, effective July 1, 2013, the Department on Aging continued to work closely with representatives from the Department of Human Services, Divisions of Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health and Rehabilitation Services to ensure clients received the appropriate referral for services.