



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LSSI's Senior Protective Services Program Responds to Suspected Abuse, Neglect of Seniors

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) is designated by the Illinois Department on Aging as the elder abuse, neglect and exploitation (ANE) program for Carroll, Lee, Ogle and Whiteside Counties.

As a result, LSSI's Senior Protective Services program will respond to suspected reports of elder abuse, neglect and/or exploitation of persons who are 60 years of age or older and living in these four counties. Types of abused recognized by Illinois law includes physical, sexual and emotional abuse, confinement, passive neglect, willful deprivation and financial exploitation.

Elder abuse services are often instrumental in stopping further abuse. Elders often self-report, but the vast majority of reporters are family members and health professionals. Anyone who in good faith reports suspected abuse or cooperates with an investigation shall be immune from criminal or civil liability or professional disciplinary action. Any person can report anonymously.

Mandated reporters include a large number of professionals, including social services employees, law enforcement, fire fighters, education professionals, medical/dental/behavioral health professionals, clergy, aging network employees, Illinois Department of Health Services employees, as well as any county or municipal health department employee. These individuals are mandated to report abuse, if a senior cannot understand the ramifications of the abuse or doesn't have the capacity to seek help for himself or herself. Suspected abuse can be reported to LSSI from 8:30 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m. during weekdays at 815/626-7333. Or call the Illinois Department on Aging hotline at 866/800-1409, where reports can be made 24/7.

LSSI's Senior Protective Services staff can further explain the range of intervention services through a group training or presentation. For more information, contact Mary Cox, Senior Protective Services supervisor, at 815/626-7333, ext. 311, or at Mary.Cox@LSSI.org.

Founded in October 1867, LSSI is a statewide, not-for-profit social service agency of the three Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. LSSI serves people through an array of services at approximately 83 sites across Illinois. Among its services for seniors are low-income housing, community services, and nursing care and rehabilitation. For more information, visit www.LSSI.org or LSSI's [Facebook](#) page.

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