



ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF THE ELDERLY

The Advocacy Center (AC) is a statewide non-profit agency providing free legal services to senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

ADVOCACY CENTER

THE PROBLEM

Abuse and neglect may be physical, financial or emotional and may be inflicted by neighbors, family, paid caregivers, or others in a position to exploit the vulnerable elderly person. Studies instituted by the U.S. Congress indicate that abuse and neglect of dependent and frail elderly persons is a significant and widespread problem. The Chairman of the House of Representatives Select Committee on Aging has stated: **“Abuse and neglect of the elderly and disabled is intolerable in any setting, and we should use every means at our disposal to stop it.”**

THE SOLUTION

Because the victim may be unwilling or unable to take action to stop the abuse or neglect, it is often difficult to pursue legal action; however, the Advocacy Center (AC) may assist victims in several ways:

1. Suing persons guilty of financial abuse and exploitation to attempt to recover money or goods taken from the victim, in select cases where the harm is egregious and resources are available;
2. Executing powers of attorney or other legal devices for victims of financial abuse/exploitation whereby the victim authorizes someone trustworthy to help with finances;
3. Providing information and referring elder abuse/neglect victims to law enforcement and/or social service agencies for help in obtaining community supports which may help to prevent future abuse;
4. Assisting victims of financial abuse to designate someone trustworthy to receive his/her benefits, such as Social Security or Veterans Administration checks; and/or
5. Referring the victim of abuse or neglect to the Elderly Protective Services program for investigation, assessment and case management.

ELIGIBILITY FOR AC SERVICES

Anyone 60 years of age or older, who lives in one of the parishes listed below and whose legal issue falls within AC's service priorities, is eligible for free legal services. Clients may not be required to come into the office if their legal problems or questions can be resolved through telephone conversations or by mail. If there is a need for an in-person interview, an appointment can be made to meet at a convenient location.

ADDITIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER RESOURCES

The *TriAngle*, a quarterly newsletter which discusses issues affecting the elderly and persons with disabilities, is free upon request to clients and friends of AC. If you need more information about our legal services, contact the AC office nearest you.

**If you live in Orleans, Plaquemines or St. Tammany Parishes
and need assistance, please contact us.**

Call: TOLL-FREE 1-800-960-7705 (Voice) 1-866-935-7348 (TTY)

To request services in Vietnamese, call 1-800-960-7705, extension 153. Đề đòi hỏi những công tác (dịch vụ) bằng tiếng Việt, xin gọi 1-800-960-7705, mở rộng 153.
For information in Spanish, please call 1-800-960-7705, ext. 152. Para información en español por favor llame 1-800-960-7705, ext.152

Write: 1010 Common Street, Suite 2600, New Orleans, LA 70112

Visit our website: www.advocacyla.org

This program is funded by the Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Tammany Area Agencies on Aging

Last Review/Update 10/1/08