

LAVA Project Overview of Services

The number of people who suffer from abuse, neglect or exploitation is staggering. Seniors and endangered adults are particularly vulnerable to many types of abuse.

Abuse, neglect and exploitation of the senior and endangered adult population is a pervasive problem and a growing concern. The costs for victims of abuse can be devastating.

It is difficult for many seniors and endangered adults to see themselves as victims of crime, especially when the crime is perpetrated by a loved one or family member. Asking for legal help is often a big step for many of our clients.

LAVA's goal is to provide a pathway to civil justice for our clients.

The LAVA Project team encourages anyone who believes they may qualify for our services to contact us.

Clients are potentially eligible for free civil legal services.

CONTACT US:

Applying for Legal Assistance

If you need legal assistance, please make an application by calling:
1-844-243-8570

Program Inquiries

If you would like to invite us to give an educational program in your community, please contact us:
Indianapolis: 317-829-3087
South Bend: 574-234-8121
Bloomington: 812-961-7206

Funding for the LAVA Project is principally provided by the

Indiana Criminal Justice Institute and also by:



This project was supported by Grant No. 16VA-GX-0017 awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Jus-



Indiana Legal
Services, Inc.

LAVA Project Legal Assistance for Victimized Adults



Serving
all 92
Indiana
counties

Contact Us:

**To apply for legal assistance, call:
1-844-243-8570**

Office in Indianapolis:
151 N. Delaware Street, Suite 1800
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Office in South Bend:
401 E. Colfax Avenue, Suite 116
South Bend, IN 46617



Indiana Legal Services, Inc.
Ensuring Equal Access to Justice

LAVA Project

Our mission

LAVA provides legal representation to Indiana seniors and endangered adults who have suffered abuse, neglect or exploitation, including criminal financial exploitation.

Our purpose is to ease or eliminate the negative effects of these crimes by providing free civil legal services.

Additionally, LAVA provides law-related education and proactive programs designed to empower seniors and endangered adults.

Legal Assistance for Victimized Adults

Report Abuse and Neglect

If you think someone is being abused, call the police and/or Adult Protective Services. The APS 24-hour toll-free emergency hotline is 1-800-992-6978. For emergencies, call 911.

What we do

LAVA offers quality legal representation to assist clients in civil matters, including: advice, negotiation, consultation, and referrals to appropriate agencies.

Private civil actions for financial abuse under state law could include a Complaint for Restitution, Compensatory Damages and Punitive Damages under one or more of the following:

1. Specific statutory causes of action for financial abuse or exploitation;
2. Fraud or constructive fraud;
3. Breach of fiduciary duty or aiding and abetting a breach of fiduciary duty;
4. Negligence;
5. Rescinding of transactions;
6. Conversion of assets stolen; and
7. Actions for an accounting of the actions of a fiduciary.

Private civil representation for other abuse and neglect under state law may include:

1. Revocation of a Power of Attorney;
2. Protective Orders; and
3. Eviction matters.

Who we serve

To be eligible for legal services, a person must be:

- an Indiana resident
- age 60+ or an endangered adult
- able to consent to retain counsel

An **endangered adult** is defined as a person who is:

- at least 18 years old;
 - incapable of managing or directing the provision of self-care by reason of:
 - Mental illness
 - Developmental/intellectual disability
 - Dementia
 - Other physical or mental incapacity
- and
- Harmed or threatened with harm as a result of abuse, neglect or exploitation of the individual's personal services or property.

A **senior** is defined as a person who is 60 years of age or older.

**For civil legal help,
please contact the LAVA Project
at Indiana Legal Services.**