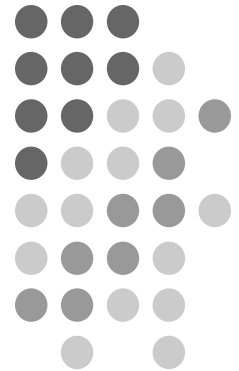


Self Neglect Issues in Elderly



Self Neglect— “A condition that is the result of an eligible adult’s inability, due to physical or mental impairments, or both, or a diminished capacity, to perform essential self-care tasks that substantially threaten his or her own health...and general safety” [Elder Abuse & Neglect Act Chapter 320, Aging, (320 ILCS 20/)].

Signs of Self Neglect:

- Dehydration. Malnutrition. Bedsores.
- Unexpected/unexplained deterioration of health.
- Excessive dirt or odor.
- Hazardous, unsafe or unclean living conditions.
- Absence of needed eyeglasses, hearing aids, dentures, prostheses.
- Inadequate or inappropriate clothing for weather.
- Inadequate heating or cooling in inclement weather.

Characteristics of Self Neglect:

- Individual lives alone
- More likely to suffer from mental illness or physical illnesses
- Decreased physical abilities
- Alcohol or drug problems
- Mostly women

What to Do:

Contact: Local Elder Protective Services
or
Illinois Protective Services 24-Hour Elder Abuse Hotline:
1.866.800.1409 (voice)
1.888.206.1327 (TTY)

For More Information, Contact:

Lynn Tadda, LCSW
Franklin-Williamson Human Services, Inc.
618.937.6483 ext. 7504

Linda Warner, EdM, QMHP
Heartland Human Services
217.347.7179 ext. 1046

Juanita Suro, MA, LCPC
Southeastern Illinois Counseling Centers, Inc.
618.395.4309 ext. 230