



Elder Self Neglect

Definition:

Self-neglect is the result of an adult's inability, due to physical and/or mental impairment or diminished capacity, to perform essential self-care tasks including: providing essential food, clothing, shelter, and medical care; obtaining goods and services necessary to maintain physical health, mental health, emotional well-being and general safety; and/or managing financial affairs."

Source: National Assoc. of Adult Protective Service Administrators, Duke, 1991.

- Elder self-neglect (ESN) represents half or more of all cases reported to adult protective services.

Sign of Self Neglect:

- Dehydration
- Malnutrition
- Hypothermia/hyperthermia
- Excessive dirt or odor, hazardous, unsafe or unclean living conditions
- Inadequate or inappropriate clothing
- Missing eyeglasses, hearing aids, dentures or prostheses
- Unexpected/unexplained deterioration of health
- Bedsores
- Signs of excessive drugging, refusal to take medication or other drug misuse.

Reporting Self Neglect:

Call the APS hotline to make reports statewide: **1-866-800-1409**

In the City of Chicago, Catholic Charities Adult Protective Services has the contract to investigate self-neglect reports.

In North Suburban Cook County, Metropolitan Family Services investigates self-neglect for Evanston, Skokie, Niles, Lincolnwood, and Morton Grove. North Shore Senior Center covers 14 additional communities in Maine, New Trier, and Northfield Townships.