

# LAVA Project

## Overview of Services

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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.

If you need civil legal representation to ease or eliminate the effects of criminal behavior, please contact the LAVA Project team:

Located in the Indianapolis Office:

Sarah Everett, Attorney

Email: sarah.everett@ilsi.net

Arden Gervase, Paralegal

Email: arden.gervase@ilsi.net

Located in the South Bend Office:

Jessica Brock, Attorney

Email: jessica.brock@ilsi.net

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Indiana Legal  
Services, Inc.

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## Legal Assistance for Victimized Adults (LAVA) Project



Serving  
all 92  
Indiana  
counties

## Contact Us:

### LAVA Project

Indiana Legal Services, Inc.  
151 North Delaware Street, 1800  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

401 E. Colfax, Suite 116  
South Bend, IN 46617

(317) 829-3104, intake and information  
1 (800) 869-0212, ext. 2292



Indiana Legal Services, Inc.  
Ensuring Equal Access to Justice

## LAVA Project

### Our mission

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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.

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# Legal Assistance for Victimized Adults

### What we do

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LAVA offers quality legal representation to assist clients in civil matters. Representation includes 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

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To be eligible for legal services, a person must be a resident of the state of Indiana, an endangered adult or a senior, and be able to consent to retain civil legal assistance.

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

- At least 18 years old;
- Incapable by reason of:
  - Mental illness
  - Developmental/intellectual disability
  - Dementia
  - Other physical or mental incapacity of managing or directing the provision of self-care, 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.

#### ***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.

For civil legal help, please contact the LAVA Project.