

Combining Our Efforts

The DuPage County State's Attorney's Office is committed to using all resources available for the good of the community. To that end, the Office works hand in hand with the Adult Protective Services Division of DuPage County Human Services along with Township Supervisors, Mayors and Managers throughout the County. In addition, the Office has the cooperation of, and will work in conjunction with, the Abuse and Neglect Division of the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Illinois Department on Aging, the Illinois State Police and the Illinois Attorney General's Office.

NOTE: Illinois statutes use the terms "aged, elderly, handicapped and developmentally disabled." Therefore, although we think of victims as persons first and age and/or abilities are secondary; please understand, we must use the terms provided in the statutes when prosecuting cases.

DuPage County State's Attorney's Office

503 N. County Farm Road
Wheaton, IL 60187

www.dupageco.org/statesattorney

(630) 407-8000

TDD (630) 407-8003

SAO@dupageco.org

Follow us on Facebook and
Twitter



DuPage SAO



A Message From

**Bob
Berlin**

**DuPage County
State's Attorney**

The DuPage County State's Attorney's Office is committed to serving the needs of seniors and persons with disabilities who find themselves a victim of financial exploitation, neglect or physical, sexual or emotional abuse. This population of our residents deserves our love, respect and understanding, not abuse.

Regardless of whether an individual lives in the community or in a long-term care facility, my office is committed to representing the interests of all seniors and persons with disabilities should they find themselves in need of assistance.

We will vigorously prosecute those who commit crimes against these vulnerable populations and will seek all appropriate criminal and civil sanctions, including restitution, restraining orders and jail sentences.

Abuse is not love. Abuse is a crime whether the victim and abuser are strangers, relatives, friends or enemies. Broken bones and financial exploitation are just as painful at the hands of a loved one as at those of a stranger. If you or someone you love is being abused, you have the right to seek help.

The DuPage County State's Attorney's Office **Senior Citizen & Persons with Disabilities**



**DuPage County
State's Attorney
Robert B. Berlin**

“Our seniors and persons with disabilities, deserve our love, respect and understanding, not abuse.”
- DuPage County State’s Attorney Robert B. Berlin

What can the State’s Attorney’s Office do for me?

The DuPage County State’s Attorney’s Office is here to help you should you or a loved one find yourself the victim of a crime. We employ a seasoned and experienced group of prosecutors, investigators and support staff who are dedicated to seeking justice.

From the beginning, you will have the assistance of a Victim Services Advocate. This advocate will keep you advised about what is happening in your case. The advocate will also serve as your main point of contact with the Office and will answer any questions you may have. This advocate will also accompany you to court if you are asked to testify.

As your case proceeds through the legal system, our investigators and Assistant State’s Attorneys will work in tandem with County Adult Protective Services representatives and members of partner agencies who will be prepared to address your special needs throughout the legal process.

I’m not sure I really want to file a complaint. Whom should I talk to?

In most instances of suspected abuse against seniors or persons with disabilities, your first phone call should be to your local law enforcement agency. They can let you know whether the acts of an individual constitute a criminal offense.

If you feel you would like to call the State’s Attorney’s Office directly, our number is (630) 407-8000. Your call will be answered by an individual who will be able to evaluate your complaint and have it reviewed to see whether either criminal or civil legal action is appropriate. You may also contact Adult Protective Services at (630) 407-6500.

The need for protection

According to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, each year 4 to 5 percent of older people are victims of some form of abuse. We also know, from our own experience, that persons with disabilities are especially vulnerable.

Our compassionate attorneys and support staff receive special training on issues important to seniors and persons with

disabilities and the laws which were written solely for the benefit and protection of this population. Additionally, we are prepared to meet the special physical accommodations which may be required in some cases.

The person who abused me is mentally ill... can I get them help instead of punishment?

There are special provisions of the Mental Health Code which may be applied if the person is mentally ill and if the violence or threat of violence is a result of that mental illness. In such cases, the State’s Attorney’s Office is prepared to consider involuntary mental health treatment as well as any other appropriate legal action.

The rights, dignity and concerns of victims are our top priority. Our goal is to improve not only the handling of cases by this office, but the quality of life for victims who are seniors and persons with disabilities.