Federal and state laws prohibit housing discrimination against individuals who are members of protected classes. Individuals with disabilities are one such protected class. A disabled individual is defined as an individual who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity. Examples of such impairments include: hearing, mobility, speech, vision, cancer, diabetes, epilepsy, chronic alcoholism or drug addiction, or chronic mental illness or handicap.

A disabled individual who is in need of a service or companion animal may request a reasonable accommodation to change or alter a housing provider’s no pet rules, policies, practices, or services if necessary for the disabled individual to equally use and enjoy the housing. A housing provider may not require a disabled individual to pay extra fees or deposits as a condition of receiving the reasonable accommodation.

Reasonable accommodation requests must be communicated to the housing provider verbally or in writing. An individual may make a request at anytime - prior to submitting an application through termination of the lease, eviction, or litigation. A person other than the individual with the disability may make the request. An individual need not use the actual words “reasonable accommodation.”

In making a request, a person must demonstrate that the individual has a disability that can be accommodated, state the accommodation sought, how the accommodation is related to the person’s disability, and how it will help the individual access or remain in the housing. The individual need not state the name of the disability. Likewise, a housing provider is prohibited from asking the individual about the diagnosis, treatment, nature, or extent of the disability.

Generally, a housing provider is required to accept a disabled individual’s reasonable accommodation request for a service or companion animal. A housing provider’s denial or failure to promptly respond or provide the accommodation may constitute discrimination. A housing provider is not required to adopt any formal procedure for requests and may not refuse an individual’s request because the request was not made according to procedures adopted by a housing provider.
If the individual’s disability and the need for an accommodation is known or obvious, the housing provider should not ask for any additional information or verification. However, in some circumstances, a housing provider may request the individual to provide verification. If an individual’s disability is known or obvious, but the need for the accommodation is not, then a housing provider may request the individual to provide only enough information necessary to verify the need for an accommodation. If neither the disability nor need is readily apparent, the housing provider may request the individual to provide verification of both the disability and the need for the accommodation. Such verification may include an individual’s self-certification or documentation from a doctor, medical professional, peer support group, non-medical service agency, or reliable third party. The law does not require an individual to provide a housing provider proof of a service or companion animal’s training or certification.

Even though service or companion animals are exempt from housing providers’ no pet or pet deposit policies, an individual must properly care for the animal. If the animal is particularly disruptive or disturbs other tenants, then a housing provider may be justified in denying the individual’s request, terminating the lease, or evicting the individual.

It is important to understand that housing providers will likely incur some expenses in granting an individual’s reasonable accommodation request for a service or companion animal. The law prohibits housing providers from assuming, at the time the request is made, that a service or companion animal will cause significant damage to the premises. However, if an animal does in fact cause significant damage to the premises, a housing provider may hold the individual financially liable for the costs to repair the damage.

An aggrieved person who has been injured by a housing provider’s discriminatory refusal or denial of a reasonable accommodation request for a service or companion animal or believes they will be injured by a practice that is about to occur may seek relief. An aggrieved person may file a housing discrimination complaint with the North Dakota Department of Labor or the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) within one year after the discriminatory practice occurred or may file a private suit directly in federal or state court within two years after the discriminatory practice occurred.
It was a Saturday night in late August. I was out to the cabin at Lake Tschida getting ready to watch a Twins game and eat some excellent Graner sweet corn.

The starting pitcher for the Twins was a kid from Perth, Australia, Liam Hendricks. Like so many Twins pitchers lately, he has not had a great career. “Liam has started 17 games for the Twins over the past couple of years and only won one of them,” the announcer said.

Right before he threw his first pitch of the game, Hendricks stepped over to the right side of the pitcher’s mound and with his foot clearly wrote “CL” in the dirt for all to see. I was totally perplexed until the announcer explained that “CL” stood for Christopher Lane. He continued that Lane was a young Australian student who had been killed recently while jogging in Oklahoma. This was Hendricks’ tribute to this young ballplayer from his homeland.

I was curious so I did some searching on the net. Christopher Lane was 22 years old from Melbourne, Australia. He was attending East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma, where he played baseball for the East Central team. In the middle of August he was visiting his girl friend, Sarah Harper, in nearby Duncan, Oklahoma. While out jogging he was fatally shot in the back. Three teenagers have been charged in connection with the killing. Police investigators said this was a random shooting.

If that doesn’t put a cold chill on your Saturday night - - - - I continued to follow this matter when I returned to town and went back to work. I could not get it out of my head.

The White House released a statement “... The president and first lady’s thoughts and prayers are with Chris Lane’s family and friends in these trying times.”

Australia’s former Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fisher lashed out, “I am angry because it is corrupting the world, this gun culture of the United States.”

Chris’ father said, “He gave up a lot to follow his dreams. There’s not going to be any good come out of this because it was just so senseless.”

I have two children, ages 22 and 19. They both run regularly. Maybe that is why this hits so close to home. But something has to wake us up as a nation. Australia tells us that a person is 15 times more likely to be shot to death in the United States than in Australia. America’s violent deaths continue with no end in sight.

We as a nation need to admit that these senseless killings are one of our country’s most serious problems, equal to the debt, cancer and abuse of our children and elders. There will be different approaches as to how to address it. There will be liberal and conservative approaches as there are on everything from motorcycle helmets to foreign aid. I’m sure gun control issues will be a part of the debate as they should be. But it is so much bigger than that. To me it is all about America’s survival as a civilized nation in the 21st Century.

We cannot continue to allow these senseless killings and we cannot pretend it is not happening! There is a quote from Pope Francis on the top of this page about indifference to the suffering of others. Read it a couple of times.

“Australia and the United States have very similar backgrounds. They both started out as colonies for England in the 1700's. Europeans immigrated there in the 1800's. We became allies in the 1900's. And today Australia still has kangaroos, koala bears and wombats and we have a murder rate that is off the chart. What happened??
Are You:
65 or Older?
Or Disabled?

If your income is $42,000 or less, you may qualify for the

Homestead Credit for Senior Citizens or Disabled Persons

- a credit to reduce property taxes
  or
- a partial refund of the rent you pay

For details, contact your
- Local Assessor or
- County Director of Tax Equalization
BISMARCK, ND – Tax Commissioner Cory Fong announced today that the Tax Department will be promoting recent legislative changes to the Homestead Tax Credit program. The changes allow more low-income senior citizens and disabled persons to qualify for the credit.

The Homestead Tax Credit is available to homeowners who are 65 years of age or older, or permanently and totally disabled. Qualified applicants receive a reduction in the property taxes on their primary residence.

The program reduces a homeowner's taxable value by up to as much as 100% or a maximum reduction of $4,500 based on the homeowner's income. The legislature expanded the top qualifying income from $26,000 to $42,000.

Other changes to the program include raising the value of assets allowed from $75,000 to $500,000, including the market value of the homestead and the value of any assets gifted or otherwise divested within the last three years.

"We encourage homeowners who may have applied earlier this year but were ineligible because of the income test, to visit with their tax director to find out if they might be eligible now with the higher income limit," said Fong.

Homeowners may apply for the credit by completing the Homestead Credit Application for Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons and sending it to their local assessor or county director of tax equalization. For more information about the program or for the proper application, homeowners should contact their local assessor or county director of tax equalization. Applications are also available on the Tax Department's web site at www.nd.gov/tax.

To obtain a list of Tax Directors and City Assessors with their contact information, or for other related information, visit the Tax Department web site at www.nd.gov/tax. Or contact the Property Tax Division in the Office of State Tax Commissioner by calling 877.328.7088 option 6, or 701.328.3127.

The homestead credit will reduce the homeowner’s taxable value according to the following schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If your income is</th>
<th>Taxable value is reduce by</th>
<th>Maximum reduction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$ 0 - 22,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22,001 - 26,000</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>$3,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26,001 - 30,000</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>$2,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30,001 - 34,000</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>$1,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34,001 - 38,000</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>$900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38,001 - 42,000</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>$450</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Below is a list of terms and definitions that are commonly utilized in probates and American Indian Probate Reform Act Wills. Our thanks to the Community Legal Education Self Help staff of California Indian Legal Services for their help with this.

**Allotments** are pieces of land given to an individual Indian person and which are held in trust by the federal government for the benefit of the person. Allotments typically are on a reservation, except for public domain allotments.

**Allottee** is a person who owns an interest in an allotment.

**Assignments** are not allotments and are lands held in trust for a tribe, not an individual. Tribes may offer members rights to use tribal lands, which are called assignments.

**Consolidation** is a legal process during the BIA probate where heirs or devisees can give their interests (if more than one person is getting an interest) to one person. This process avoids further fractioning of the property.

**Decedent** is the person who died.

**Devisor** is the person who is named in a Will to take the decedent’s property.

**Eligible Devisee** is a term in AIPRA that applies to persons eligible to receive property under a Will. AIPRA provides a list of persons who meet this definition.

**Eligible Heir** is a term in AIPRA that means a person eligible to receive property when there is no Will. AIPRA provides a list of persons who meet this definition.

**Estate** is all the property left by the decedent.

**Fee** refers to real property (land) and includes any improvements permanently on that land that are not held in trust. Title to fee land is owned in the same manner for Indian and non-Indian property owners. Fee land is not held in trust by the United States government. Fee land is sometimes called “taxable land,” because you have to pay property tax on it.

**Fractionation** is where an allotment has multiple small interests in the land.

**Individual Indian Money Accounts (IIMS)** are accounts held in trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and managed for individual Indians. The monies in these accounts usually come from the land in which the Indian person owns an interest, and are often from leases on the land (for agriculture, for example) or mining (oil and gas, most commonly).

**Intestate** means the person who passed away does not have a Will.

**Joint Tenancy** is a way for multiple people to own interests in the same piece of land. Under AIPRA, a joint tenancy is presumed if left to devisees in “equal shares”. All “tenants” or owners will have an equal share and rights to live on the land, but when one passes, their interests goes to the remaining tenants. The last survivor will take the entire interest.
**Life Estate** means a right of person to live on land or in a home until they pass away. They do not receive an interest in the land or the home.

**Lineal Descendants** are defined by AIPRA and include the descendant’s children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Siblings, nieces and nephews are not lineal descendants.

**Partition** means to divide out an allottee’s interest in a parcel of trust land so that there are clear boundaries to their interest. The partitioning process must be done through the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

**Personal Property** means the property of a decedent that is not land (or real property). Examples include a home on an allotment, cars, furniture, and mobile homes.

**Probate** means the legal process through which a decedents' property (both trust and non-trust) are passed on to heirs or devisees. Trust lands are probated by the Department of Interior’s Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA), and non-trust lands through a state court.

**Public Domain Allotments** are those trust lands not located on a reservation.

**Real Property** includes land, and anything permanently erected on or attached to the land (such as a house, or other building). It means the same thing as “real estate.”

**Remainder** is the interest in land or a home that passes to an eligible heir, or named devisee, after the life tenant has passed.

**Single Heir Rule** (also known as the 5 Percent Rule) is a provision in AIPRA that applies to interests in trust land that are less than 5% of the entire parcel and where there is no Will. The Rule requires the interest to pass to a single heir.

**Tenants**, in the probate and estate planning context, refers to the owners of interests in a joint tenancy or the life tenant in a life estate. It does not refer to a traditional landlord-tenant relationship, such as when a person rents a home.

**Testator** is the person making a Will.

**Trust lands** are managed by the BIA and held in trust for the benefit of either an individual Indian (allotments) or the Tribe (tribal trust land). Trust lands cannot be bought or sold without consent of the government, nor can they be taxed or regulated by the state.

**Trust Personalty** is usually money held in an IIM account for an Indian person.

**Undivided Interest** is the most common form of land ownership for allottees and it means that the owner has an interest in the land, but that it is not “sub-divided.”

**Will** is the legal document that tells others how the decedent wants their estate distributed after their death. Wills can be in the decedent’s own handwriting, or they can be typed. Each style has special rules and requirements to make it a valid document. Wills for trust lands (often called an Indian Will) must follow additional rules.

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**Facebook**

It’s official, LSND is now on Facebook! Follow up and we’ll keep you up-to-date with all our news and information. It is a chance for you to let us know what you think, too. We always appreciate your comments. If you are already set up with a Facebook account, simply head to our Facebook page (Legal Services of North Dakota), and click the ‘like’ button. If you don’t have a Facebook account yet, you can sign up for a free account and then follow the directions above.
The Cobell Settlement, the Keepseagle Settlement, and Federal Income Tax Liability
By Edward B. Reinhardt, Senior Attorney

In the last year or so, the federal government has reached settlements in two class action lawsuits involving individual Native Americans. One was the Cobell v. Salazar settlement, and the other was the Keepseagle v. Vilsack settlement. In both cases, eligible class members have received, or will receive, funds under the settlement agreements. Keepseagle class members can also receive debt forgiveness. Cobell was an action against the BIA for mismanagement while Keepseagle was against the old Farmer’s Home Administration for discrimination.

Funds received under the Cobell settlement are NOT included in gross income for federal tax purposes. That is in the settlement agreement itself. In other words, Cobell settlement funds, whether received as part of the historical accounting class or the trust administration class, are not taxable.

The Cobell settlement also contains funds for the federal government to buy small, fractionated land interests from the owners. An owner who sells his land interest to the government under the Cobell settlement does not have to pay income tax on the money paid to him or her from the government.

Funds received under the Keepseagle settlement ARE taxable. In Keepseagle, class members can receive funds under either Track A or Track B. Those filing under Track A can receive up to $50,000. Under Track A, an amount equal to 25% of the award is paid directly to the IRS on behalf of the class member to offset taxes due.

For example, if a Track A claimant receives $50,000, then 25% of that, or $12,500, is paid to the IRS to offset the taxes due. This does NOT mean the claimant can spend the $50,000 and forget about filing a tax return. Track A claimants still have to file a tax return to figure out how much income tax he or she owes. If the tax owed is less than $12,500, then the claimant could get a refund.

If the tax owed is more than $12,500, then the claimant would have to pay in to the IRS.

Track B Keepseagle claimants may receive up to $250,000. There are a limited number of these folks. Unlike with Track A, there is no payment made to the IRS to offset taxes owed. Track B claimants have to pay taxes out of whatever they receive. Track B claimants may even need to pay estimated tax. Track B claimants should talk to their accountant or tax professional to see if they have to pay estimated taxes and assist them with their taxes.

Both Track A and Track B claimants can also receive debt forgiveness. Normally, when a debt is forgiven, or written off, the IRS treats the forgiven amount as income that has to be reported on a tax return. That’s what the IRS is doing with Keepseagle debt forgiveness. However, with Track A debt forgiveness, 25% of the forgiven amount will be paid to the IRS to offset any tax owed. With Track B debt forgiveness, nothing is paid to the IRS to offset taxes owed. Anyone who received debt forgiveness needs to file a tax return to figure out how much income tax is owed.

Because Keepseagle benefits are taxable, class members who receive payments or debt forgiveness will receive a Form 1099. Payments will be shown on a 1099-MISC. The amount of taxable income will be in box 3, and the amount paid on behalf of the claimant (under Track A) will be in box 4. For example, a Track A claimant who got $50,000, would show $62,500 in box 3, and $12,500 in box 4. A Track B claimant who got $250,000 would show $250,000 in box 3. Any debt forgiveness will be shown on a Form 1099-C.

If you or a client has received money under the Keepseagle settlement, we strongly recommend you consult a tax professional.
NEGATIVE OPTION BILLING

Negative option billing is a selling technique in which goods or services are provided at regular intervals unless the consumer cancels. It puts the burden on the consumer to cancel the goods or services. The use of negative options sales has dramatically increased with regard to “free trial offers” or “risk-free trials” promoting everything from weight loss, colon cleansing and teeth whitening products to discount buying clubs relating to shopping, travel, entertainment, health care, ID theft protection or insurance.

Here’s how it works. Consumers agree to pay a minimal shipping charge to receive the initial product or membership information. Typically, these offers include a period of time in which to use, or try, the product or service. If you like it, then you do nothing and your credit card (the same card number given for shipping) will be charged every month until you cancel. If you decide you do not want the product or service, then you must cancel within the trial period and hopefully your card will not be charged the monthly fee.

Some dishonest businesses make it tough to cancel, hiding the terms and conditions of their offers in fine print, using pre-checked sign-up boxes as the default setting online, and putting conditions on returns and cancellations that are so strict it could be next to impossible to stop the deliveries and the billing. These types of offers can be very confusing and are likely not worth the incentive to join.

Before proceeding with a negative option plan, be sure you:

• Understand all the terms and conditions.
• If purchasing online, print a copy of the website and your receipt.
• Use a regular credit card versus a debit card.
• Know how to cancel your obligation.
• Know how to return unwanted merchandise.
• Always review your monthly credit card statements.

Remember, negative options may sound great, but are often too good to be true.

The Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division investigates allegations of fraud in the marketplace. Investigators also mediate individual complaints against businesses. If you have a consumer problem or question, call the Consumer Protection Division at 328-3404, toll-free at 1-800-472-2600, or 1-800-366-6888 (w/TTI). The full version of this article and other consumer information is located on their website at www.ag.nd.gov.
In 2012, 14,866 crime index offenses were reported by local law enforcement agencies. This is an increase of 7.9 percent from the total of 13,778 reported in 2011.

Crime index offenses include: murder/non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny/theft, and motor vehicle theft.

The Census Bureau estimate North Dakota's population for 2012 is 699,628. The index crime rate per 100,000 population for 2012 was 2124.8. The index crime rate for 2011 was 2014.5 per 100,000 population. This is a 5.5 percent increase in the crime rate.

The total number of reported violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) was 1,451. This represents an increase of 7.2 percent from the total of 1,353 reported in 2011. In 2010, 1,165 violent index crimes were reported.

Violent crime accounted for 9.8 percent of total index crimes reported in 2012.

Collectively, property crimes (burglary, larceny/theft and motor vehicle theft) increased by 8 percent from 12,425 reported in 2011 to 13,415 reported in 2012.

Property crime accounted for 90.2 percent of total crime index offenses reported in 2012.

The 10,184 larceny/theft offenses reported in 2012 accounted for 68.5 percent of total index crimes. More than $22.2 million worth of property was reported stolen in 2012, with over 26 percent of that amount reported as recovered by law enforcement officials.

North Dakota law enforcement agencies reported 32,380 arrests in 2012. A total of 29,260 arrests was reported in 2011.

In 2012, juvenile arrests accounted for 16.9 percent of the total arrests. Juvenile arrests were 24.8 percent of the total arrests of crime index offenses.

The number of reported arrests in 2012 for DUI increased to 7,322 from 6,600 reported in 2011.

Arrests for drug offenses increased 7.9 percent from a 2011 total of 2,662 to 2,872 in 2012.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime Index Offenses Reported 2012</th>
<th>Number Reported</th>
<th>Percent of Total Index Offenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forcible Rape</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assault</td>
<td>1,071</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent Crime Subtotal</td>
<td>1,451</td>
<td>9.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>2,200</td>
<td>14.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny/Theft</td>
<td>10,184</td>
<td>68.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle Theft</td>
<td>1,031</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Crime Subtotal</td>
<td>13,415</td>
<td>90.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime Index Offense Total</td>
<td>14,866</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Memo Recently Sent to LSND Staff from our Executive Director

As you are all aware, LSND has been dealing with federal funding cuts over the past few years. In an attempt to maintain our current operation, services and staff, in recent years we have cut your hours, retirement benefits, training, leave and more. Despite these sacrifices, you have done an incredible job of continuing to deliver high-quality legal services to low-income and elderly North Dakotans. I think the survey conducted by KLJ for strategic planning illustrates the respect other organizations have for the quality of your work and your commitment to clients.

As we enter September, it is my responsibility to provide you with an update on LSND’s financial situation for 2014. It is not a good one. I am not trying to ruin the beautiful North Dakota fall, or scare you, but I believe you deserve the respect of being told what is going on well in advance of implementation.

I spent a considerable amount of time last week talking with Tim at LSC and Jeanne at the ND Bar Foundation about LSC and IOLTA funding for 2014. Without going into a great deal of detail, due to census reallocation, sequestration, and minimal interest rates, North Dakota’s 2014 funding from just Basic Field LSC and ND IOLTA will be cut over $100,000 from this year’s level. Other federal funding is also up in the air. Thankfully, our State funding is very stable.

While we are continuing to pursue alternative funding (and have secured some), we are going to have to start planning for 2014 with significantly less money. We will not be cutting any more hours, leave, or retirement benefits. We will not be eliminating health insurance or annual salary increases.

This time we are going to have to alter operations and very likely reduce staff. What additional funding we obtain, and federal cuts we receive in the next few months, will determine how radically we have to change operations and priorities and how many staff we will have to let go. Changes in operations and priorities will be targeted for January 1, 2014, and any layoffs about that time as well.

Anyone who has questions, or would like to know how this funding situation could impact you individually, feel free to call or email me. I will be as candid as I can with you. Everything is on the table this time; nothing is guaranteed to stay as it is. Take nothing for granted – if in doubt, ask!

You can donate to Legal Services of North Dakota

As a nonprofit organization, Legal Services of North Dakota (LSND) relies on contributions to continue providing free legal services to low-income persons and our many advocacy projects. Any donation, large or small, supports the vital role we play in the struggle for equal justice.

LSND is a 501 (c)(3) organization, meaning that all contributions are fully tax deductible. You can make checks payable to Legal Services of North Dakota which can be sent to us at:

Legal Services of North Dakota
PO Box 1893
Bismarck, ND 58502

Your support will help LSND promote dignity, self-sufficiency and justice through civil legal aid for those with no place else to turn. Legal assistance stabilizes families and communities, saves taxpayers money, helps prevent legal problems that would otherwise further clog the courts, and helps people become self-sufficient and participate effectively in society. LSND works with other providers to remove the barriers that may prevent people from participation in programs designed to assist them. If you have any questions regarding donations, please contact Kim Kramer at kkramer@legalassist.org or call (701)222-2110.
Mandatory Reporting
Abuse and Neglect of a Vulnerable Adult

Who Must Report – Mandated Reporters
Effective August 1, 2013, North Dakota law contains a list of professionals who are required to report abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults. (See 2013 ND SB 2323)

- Any of the following who provide healthcare or services to a vulnerable adult:
  - Clergy (NOTE: not required if knowledge is gained as a spiritual advisor)
  - addiction counselor
  - dental hygienist
  - family therapist
  - law enforcement officer
  - mental health professional
  - occupational therapist
  - physical therapist
  - social worker
  - caregiver
  - dentist
  - firefighter
  - marriage therapist
  - nurse
  - optometrist
  - physician
  - other professionals
  - chiropractor
  - emergency medical personnel
  - hospital personnel
  - medical examiner
  - nursing home personnel
  - pharmacist
  - podiatrist

Others Who May Report
- Any other person may voluntarily report to the N.D. Department of Human Services or to law enforcement.

What Must Be Reported
- A mandated reporter is required to report as soon as possible if, as a result of information acquired by the reporter in his or her official or professional capacity, the reporter:
  - Has knowledge that a vulnerable adult has been subjected to abuse or neglect; or
  - Observes a vulnerable adult being subjected to conditions or circumstances that reasonably would result in abuse or neglect.

How to Report
- Contact one of the following offices to reach Vulnerable Adult Protective Services or contact law enforcement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Toll-Free</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bismarck Region</td>
<td>Katie Schafer</td>
<td>701-328-8868</td>
<td>888-328-2662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devils Lake Region</td>
<td>Kim Helten</td>
<td>701-665-2269</td>
<td>888-607-8610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dickinson Region</td>
<td>Rene Schmidt</td>
<td>701-227-7582</td>
<td>888-227-7525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fargo Region</td>
<td>Cass Co. Social Services</td>
<td>701-241-5747</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Forks Region</td>
<td>Bernie Hopman</td>
<td>701-795-3066</td>
<td>888-256-6742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamestown Region</td>
<td>Danelle Van Zinderen</td>
<td>701-253-6396</td>
<td>800-260-1310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minot Region</td>
<td>Deb Kraft</td>
<td>701-857-8582</td>
<td>888-470-6968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williston Region</td>
<td>Kayla Fenster</td>
<td>701-774-4685</td>
<td>800-231-7724</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- If the vulnerable adult is in immediate danger, please call law enforcement immediately and then one of the numbers listed above.

Information provided by the North Dakota Department of Human Services
Below you will see two pie charts. The first one illustrates the breakdown of all case types handled by LSND in 2012. This includes funding from all funding sources, not just the Legal Services Corporation (LSC).

The second pie chart shows the breakdown of cases handled nationally by LSC funded programs with LSC dollars.
News from the Social Security Administration

Check Out SSA’s New Homepage

Have you been to www.socialsecurity.gov lately? Pay a visit to the redesigned homepage, and you will find more than just an updated modern look. The homepage features popular “main menus” to help users quickly and easily find the information they seek. Included in the new design are a new top banner and footer, an updated color scheme, and a simplified layout.

Did we mention that the SSA website is tablet- and mobile-friendly? Now you can access all the same content from your computer, tablet, and Smartphone devices. Please visit www.socialsecurity.gov from your favorite device to maximize your experience.

Millions Retire Online

The most popular way for people to apply for retirement benefits these days is online! In fact, more than 50 percent of all retirement applications now are taken online. That’s because it’s easy, convenient, and can take as little as 15 minutes from start to finish.

Social Security wants to spread the word about the most popular way to apply benefits. There is a new online application for retirement. The theme: “I just joined the millions retiring online.” The campaign stresses that people can visit www.socialsecurity.gov to estimate their benefits, apply for retirement, and manage their accounts.

Whether you are ready to retire now, or looking for information to help you make an informed decision regarding when to retire, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm.

Direct Deposit is the Way to Go

As you probably know, by law, most federal benefit payments must now be paid electronically with some exceptions. Each year, more and more people who receive a paper check make the decision and switch to electronic payment. Last year, for example, the SSA issued more than three million paper checks each month. This year the number of paper Social Security payments each month is less than one million!

If you have friends who still receive paper checks, encourage them to switch to the safest, most convenient way to receive payments. Anyone can “go direct” at www.socialsecurity.gov/deposit.

Same-Sex Couples Eligible for Social Security

Social Security now is processing some retirement spouse claims for same-sex couples and paying benefits where they are due. The SSA continues to work closely with the Department of Justice. In the coming weeks and months the SSA will develop and implement additional policy and processing instructions.

“The recent Supreme Court decision on Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act helps to ensure that all Americans are treated fairly and equally, with the dignity and respect they deserve,” said Carolyn W. Colvin, Acting Commissioner of Social Security. “I encourage individuals who believe they may be eligible for Social Security benefits to apply now, to protect against the loss of any potential benefits.”

More information on this topic can be found at www.socialsecurity.gov/doma.
 Listed below are the cities and locations where Legal Services of ND conducts legal outreach. The dates and times vary; however, if you check our web site at www.legalassist.org, under the Legal Outreach Calendar you will find a current schedule complete with dates and times.

*Outreach involves our attorneys and paralegals going into the rural areas of our state to provide needed legal help and community education.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belcourt</td>
<td>Legal Services Office</td>
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<td>Belcourt</td>
<td>Retirement Home</td>
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<td>Bismarck</td>
<td>Burleigh County Senior Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dickinson</td>
<td>Sunset Senior Center</td>
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<td>Devils Lake</td>
<td>Senior Center</td>
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<td>Devils Lake</td>
<td>Dakota Prairie Community Action</td>
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<td>Fargo</td>
<td>YWCA Shelter</td>
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<td>Fort Totten</td>
<td>Cankdeska Cikana Comm. College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Forks</td>
<td>Senior Center</td>
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<td>Grand Forks</td>
<td>Red River Community Action</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jamestown</td>
<td>James River Senior Citizens Center</td>
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<td>Mandan</td>
<td>Golden Age Services Senior Center</td>
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<td>Minot</td>
<td>Commission on Aging</td>
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<td>Milton Young Towers</td>
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<td>New Town</td>
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<td>South Central Senior Center</td>
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<td>Wahpeton</td>
<td>Community Center</td>
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<td>White Shield</td>
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<td>Williston</td>
<td>Community Action</td>
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<td>Williston</td>
<td>Heritage Center</td>
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**LSND BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jodi Colling, President</td>
<td>Mandan, ND</td>
<td>Wade Enget</td>
<td>Stanley, ND</td>
<td>Veronica Kirkaldie</td>
<td>New Town, ND</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Tomlinson, Vice President</td>
<td>Benedict, ND</td>
<td>Al Lerberg</td>
<td>Parshall, ND</td>
<td>Paul Murphy</td>
<td>Carrington, ND</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Kae Kelsch, Secretary/Treasurer</td>
<td>Bismarck, ND</td>
<td>Robert Manly</td>
<td>Fargo, ND</td>
<td>Gary Ramsey</td>
<td>Dickinson, ND</td>
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