

# Jonathan Rosenfeld's Nursing Homes Abuse Blog

## Relief For Illinois Seniors Who Wish To Live Independently At Home

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Many older adults choose to stay in their homes or a family member's home instead of living in a nursing home or long-term care facility. However, this decision can be difficult if not supported by home-based medical services and respite care.

The [Illinois Older Adult Services Act](#) (320 ILCS 42) helps support older adults who want to stay in their homes by restructuring older adult services including home-based services. The legislation is intended to "promote a transformation of Illinois' comprehensive system of older adult services from funding a primarily facility-based service delivery system to a primarily home-based and community-based system."

The Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA) leads the effort to improve the state's long-term care system for Illinois' older adults. The Department began restructuring older adult services in late 2004. The restructuring is being performed in order to promote the right of older adults to live out their lives with dignity, retaining their autonomy, individuality, privacy, independence, and decision-making ability. To support this goal, the IDoA developed the Nursing Home Conversion Program, which aims to reduce Medicaid's reliance on nursing homes by reducing the number of Medicaid-certified nursing home beds in areas with excess beds, then re-allocating the savings to support home-based and community-based services for older adults.

Jonathan Rosenfeld represents victims of nursing home abuse and neglect throughout the country. For more information please visit Nursing Homes Abuse Blog ([www.nursinghomesabuseblog.com](http://www.nursinghomesabuseblog.com)), Bed Sore FAQ ([www.bedsorefaq.com](http://www.bedsorefaq.com)) or call Jonathan directly at (888) 424-5757.

Expanding older adult services and delivery is necessary to support older adults' right to control their care and remain in their homes. This includes supplementing family caregiver support, improving quality standards, developing strategies to retain a qualified and stable pool of workers, better coordinate service networks, and identify and address barriers to service.

According to the Older Adult Services Act, the IDoA Older Adult Services Act (OASA) Advisory Committee must submit an [annual report](#) to the Illinois General Assembly at the beginning of each year to notify the General Assembly of its progress toward compliance with the Act, summarize work completed in the previous year, identify impediments to progress, and identify recommendations requiring legislative action. The [2010 OASA Annual Report](#) stresses that successful implementation of the Act will require the OASA Advisory Group, IDoA, Illinois Department of Public Health, and Family Services to work together to transform Illinois' long-term care system. The report also acknowledged that "the state's fiscal condition may limit the extent to which immediate goals may be implemented." This means that in the meantime, older adults will probably not receive any improvements in care or support services. As a result, many older adults will be forced into long-term care facilities, so they can receive the necessary health

The Illinois Older Adult Services Act is in place to help support older adults who want to stay in their home as opposed to long-term care facilities. The Act aims to improve home health services and the delivery of such services in order to support older adults who remain at home. However, the most recent OASA report acknowledges that the state's money issues may hinder the goals of the Act and its implementation. Because of this, many older adults in Illinois will be forced into long-term care facilities.

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