

## Sample Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

July is Elder Abuse Awareness Month in Illinois. During the month of July, communities all over Illinois will sponsor events to shed light on the growing and tragic issue of elder abuse. Your readers, young and old, should be aware that the U.S. Administration on Aging estimates that 700,000 to 3.5 million older Americans are abused each year. And this is only the tip of the iceberg since only one in five cases of abuse is ever reported to authorities! But elder abuse is preventable through public awareness and education. I hope you will join in these efforts by printing the following list of things that anyone can do to fight elder abuse.

1. Call or visit an elderly loved one and ask how he or she is doing
2. Provide a respite break for a caregiver
3. Ask your bank manager to train tellers on how to detect elder financial abuse
4. Ask your doctor to ask all senior patients about possible family violence in their lives
5. Ask your local Senior Center to present a program on elder abuse
6. Organize a "Respect Your Elders" essay or poster contest in your child's school
7. Ask your religious congregation's leader to give a talk about elder abuse at a service or to put a message about elder abuse in the bulletin
8. Volunteer to be a friendly visitor to a nursing home resident or to a homebound senior in your neighborhood
9. Send a letter to your local paper, radio or TV station suggesting that they cover Elder Abuse Awareness Month (July)
10. Learn the warning signs of abuse – for more information, visit The Illinois Department on Aging at: <http://www.state.il.us/aging/> or (Elder Abuse Provider Agency), (phone number), (website if applicable.)

Thank you for helping to keep our seniors safe.

Sincerely,

(Name)  
(Title if applicable)  
(Agency)  
(Email)  
(Phone)