



*Eliminating  
Childhood  
Lead Poisoning*

Health and Education  
Resource Guide on  
Childhood Lead Poisoning  
for Parents and Other  
Advocates in Illinois



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## **Health and Education Resource Guide on Childhood Lead Poisoning for Parents and Other Advocates in Illinois**

June 2006

Lead Safe Housing Initiatives  
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## Childhood Lead Poisoning: An Urgent Problem in the State of Illinois and Where to Go For Help

Lead poisoning can lead to life-long difficulties for children. Despite suffering the harmful effects of lead, a majority of children who are poisoned do not look sick. Irritability, anemia, headaches, trouble concentrating in school, hyperactivity, and aggression are some of the signs that a child may be lead poisoned. A blood test is the only way to be certain.

The challenges for the family of a lead poisoned child can be great. Lead poisoning can slow or stop academic achievement, cripple creativity, and cause a loss of future earning power for exposed children and the communities in which they live. Recent research suggests a link between lead exposure and a greater likelihood of delinquency and criminal behavior.

### The Problem in Illinois

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Illinois leads the nation in the number of children identified as lead poisoned. The CDC defines lead poisoning as a blood lead level of 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  or higher.<sup>1</sup> In 2002, the number of Illinois children reported lead poisoned was more than 20% of all reported cases nationwide. Even lower levels of lead, however, have been shown to cause learning difficulties and behavior problems in children. And the Illinois Department of Public Health estimates that over 80,000 Illinois children are harmed by lead. There is no safe level of lead in the body.

Most children are lead poisoned in their own homes through exposure to lead dust or paint chips from paint surfaces that have deteriorated or been disturbed during home renovation or repainting. According to the U.S. Department

of Housing and Urban Development almost seven percent of all housing units in Illinois—210,000—are at high risk for lead-based paint hazards because they were built before 1978 when lead paint was banned from residential housing. Although lead harms all children age 6 years and younger, children under age 3 years are at greatest risk because of the extent to which they crawl and put their hands in their mouths, picking up lead dust that has settled in window sills, toys, or on the floor. Children from low-income families are also at greatest risk because they often live in houses or apartments where the paint is likely to be chipping and spreading lead dust. The damage lead poisoning causes to the developing brain of a child is irreversible.

Raising and educating children who have been lead poisoned requires patience and hard work to help them meet life's challenges. Caretakers need to know where to go for help and support for a child's health and educational needs.

This resource guide to health and educational services and support, including legal advocacy for families who may need specialized educational services, seeks to provide easy to use information for families and other caretakers in Illinois who are working to give children exposed to lead a better chance to live healthy and productive lives and to prevent lead poisoning from occurring in the first place.

The guide is divided into three sections: Health Resources, Special Education Resources, and an Appendix. The Health Resources Section explains the two types of screening for lead poisoning and provides locations in Illinois that offer screenings for lead poisoning. The Section

<sup>1</sup>10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  means 10 micrograms per deciliter. This very small unit of measurement is used to determine the amount of lead in the blood.

also explains what “case management” is and provides a listing of case management services for children who have been found to be lead poisoned. Both lists begin with Chicago and then are alphabetically organized by county.

The Special Education Resources Section lists agencies that provide parent support and case management for special education services to families with lead poisoned children, beginning with Chicago and then organized by county. Next, in this Section there is a list of Legal Advocacy resources for families that need special education services for their children who have been poisoned by lead. This list is organized by geographic area beginning with Chicago, and then alphabetically by county, including a list of attorneys in private practice who specialize in learning disabilities law. A list of Statewide Resources, National Resources, and Useful Websites for special education follows.

The Appendix includes photographs of peeling and flaking lead paint. It provides a listing of high risk zip codes in Illinois identified by the Illinois Department of Public Health as being at high risk for lead hazards in housing, and the questions asked when assessing a child’s risk for lead poisoning. The Appendix also provides materials that can be helpful in communicating with the school and advocating for a child who is lead poisoned.

Finally, an Alphabetical Listing of the resources found in this guide is provided.

Inclusion in the guide is not an endorsement of the services or agencies by Loyola’s Civitas ChildLaw Center, and the listing is not intended to be inclusive of all available services. The guide is arranged in a ring binder to allow Loyola University Chicago’s ChildLaw Center to update the resources provided and to make it easier for the reader to add additional material. **Please contact us to let us know that you have received this guide so that we may supplement your copy with updated and new materials as they become available.** The contact information is: Telephone: 312 915 6481; FAX: 312 915 6485, Attn: Lead Safe Housing Initiatives.

Note that *prevention* is key. Using lead safe work practices when repairing or maintaining one’s home can help prevent children from being poisoned by deteriorating lead paint and lead dust. For information on how to work safely with paint that has lead in it and to learn rights as a tenant, visit [www.lead-safe-illinois.org](http://www.lead-safe-illinois.org) and click on the pages for Parents and for Tenants.





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## Health Resources



Between 1997 and 2000, more than 55,000 children in Illinois were identified as lead poisoned. This means that the children had an elevated blood lead level (defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a blood level at or above 10 µg/dL). These numbers underestimate the problem: most children throughout the State do not have their blood tested, nor are they assessed for risk of poisoning.

### Two Types of Lead Screening: Blood Testing and Risk Assessment

**Blood Testing:** The Illinois Department of Public Health has identified zip code areas in which children are considered at greatest risk for lead poisoning due to the age of the housing stock and income levels. Children who live in a high-risk zip code are required to have a blood test at certain ages to determine whether they

are lead poisoned. A list of high risk zip codes is included in the Appendix. In addition, all children with siblings who have elevated blood lead levels should have a blood test.

**Risk Assessment:** Children who do not live in a high risk zip code area or whose sibling does not have an elevated amount of lead in her blood are required to be screened for lead through the use of a list of questions doctors are required to ask the child's parents or guardian to identify risk factors. This is called risk assessment. These questions are included in the Appendix. Depending on the answers, the doctor may be required to order a blood test for lead.

In Illinois, physicians are legally required to screen all children from 6 months through 6 years of age either by a blood test or the use of a risk assessment questionnaire. The following testing schedule is highly recommended by the State of Illinois:

- Children in high risk ZIP codes should have a blood test for lead at 12 and 24 months.
- All Chicago children under 4 years should have a blood test for lead at 6, 12, 18, 24 and 36 months or at 9, 15, 24 and 36 months.
- Children covered by Medicaid or KidCare should have a blood test for lead at 12 and 24 months.
- For those children not living in high risk zip codes, doctors should review the risk assessment questions at ages 1 and 2 years.

Regular follow up testing is required when a child has been identified as lead poisoned.





# Listing of Blood Lead Testing and Risk Assessment Resources by Chicago and County\*

## ILLINOIS

Note: The cost for a blood lead test is included for children covered by Illinois Medicaid/KidCare.

## KIDCARE

Health benefits and KidCare help line.  
1-866-4-OUR-KIDS or  
1-866-468-7543  
TTY 1-877-204-1012

## CHICAGO

The following public health clinics offer free or minimal cost lead screenings. Parents can also call the Chicago Department of Public Health at (312) 747-LEAD for more information on where to go to have a child tested for lead in Chicago. All zip codes in Chicago are designated high risk, meaning that children must be screened for lead poisoning using a blood test.

### **Englewood Health Clinic**

641 W. 63rd St.  
(312) 747-7831

### **West Town Health Clinic**

2418 W. Division  
(312) 744-0943

### **Uptown Health Clinic**

845 W. Wilson  
(312) 744-1938

### **Roseland Health Clinic**

200 E. 115th St.  
(312) 747-9500

### **Lower West Side Health Clinic**

1713 S. Ashland  
(312) 746-5157

The following agencies provide blood tests for lead but charge fees based on a sliding scale.

### **Circle Family Center**

4909 W. Division  
(773) 921-8100

### **Mile Square Health Center**

2045 W. Washington  
(312) 996-2000

### **Lawndale Christian Health Center**

3860 W. Ogden  
(773) 521-5006  
(773) 257-6472

### **Mount Sinai Hospital**

California Avenue at  
15th Street  
(773) 542-2000

The hospital accepts insurance and Medicaid and offers sliding scale fees for the uninsured.

The following locations provide a blood test for lead poisoning free of charge to their enrolled clients:

### **Lakeview Neighborhood Health Center**

2849 N. Clark  
(773) 528-1188

### **Komed Health Clinic**

4259 S. Berkeley St.  
(773) 268-7600

### **South Chicago Center**

2938 E. 89th Street  
(312) 747-5285

### **Woodlawn Adult Health Center**

6337 S. Woodlawn  
(312) 747-7700

### **South Lawndale Center**

3059 W. 26th Street  
(312) 747-0066

### **Hartgrove Hospital**

520 N. Ridgeway  
(800) 478-4783  
(773) 722-3113

\*The contact and fee information included in this listing is accurate as of the date of publication of this Guide.

The following locations provide blood tests for lead poisoning but tests are not free. Medicaid and most insurance plans are accepted.

**Rush-Presbyterian-  
St. Luke's Medical Center**

1650 W. Harrison  
(312) 942-5000

Blood tests for lead must be ordered by doctor.

**University of Illinois  
Medical Center**

1740 W. Taylor  
(312) 355-4000

Blood tests for lead must be ordered by doctor.

**St. Elizabeth Hospital**

1431 N. Claremont  
(773) 278-2000

**St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital Center**

2233 W. Division  
(312) 770-2000

**COOK COUNTY**

**John Stroger Hospital of Cook County**

1901 W. Harrison  
(312) 864-6000

Provides blood tests for lead poisoning but tests are not free. Medicaid and most insurance plans are accepted.

**EVANSTON**

**Evanston Health and  
Human Services Department**

Evanston Civic Center  
2100 Ridge  
Evanston, IL 60202  
(847) 866-2951  
Contact: Alisa Dean

**OAK PARK**

**West Suburban Hospital**

3 Erie Ct.  
Oak Park, IL 60302  
(708) 383-6200

Tests are performed at the hospital but must be ordered by a doctor, and the hospital will send test out for results. Bring insurance information.

**SKOKIE**

**Skokie Health Department**

5127 Oakton St.  
Skokie, IL 60077  
(847) 933-8252

Contact: Joan Hartford

Provides blood tests for lead for \$18; free for individuals with Medicaid card.

**DUPAGE COUNTY**

Screening only provided by private physicians.

**KANE COUNTY**

**Kane County Health Department**

1330 N. Highland Ave.  
Aurora, IL 60506  
(630) 897-1124

Conducts blood tests for lead; free for individuals with Medicaid card.

**Kane County Public Health Center**

113 S. Grove Ave.  
Elgin, IL 60120  
(630) 695-0848

Conducts blood tests for lead; free for individuals with Medicaid card.

## KANKAKEE COUNTY

### **Kankakee County Health Department**

2930 W. Station St.  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 937-3560

Conducts blood tests for lead for \$19.

## LAKE COUNTY

### **Lake County Health Department**

2400 Belvidere Road.  
Waukegan, IL 60085  
(847) 377-8400

Provides blood tests for lead for \$43, but only \$4 with Medicaid card. Sliding scale fee for individuals without Medicaid card but proof of income.

## MACON COUNTY

### **Macon County Health Department**

1221 E. Condit St.  
Decatur, IL 62521  
(217) 423-6988

Provides blood tests for lead free for individuals with Medicaid card or proof of income at 185% of poverty level. Provides private insurance blood tests for lead for \$30.

## PEORIA COUNTY

### **Peoria County Health Department**

2116 N. Sheridan Rd.  
Peoria, IL 61604  
(309) 679-6068

Provides blood tests for lead free for individuals with Medicaid card; \$15 for others.

## ROCK ISLAND COUNTY

### **Rock Island County Health Department**

2112 25th Ave.  
Rock Island, IL 61201  
(309) 793-1955 x 295

Contact: Kathy Lemburg

Provides blood tests for lead free with WIC appointment; sliding scale fees for others.

## ST. CLAIR COUNTY

### **St. Clair County Health Department**

19 Public Square, Suite 150  
Belleville, IL 62220-1624  
(618) 233-6175 x 4468

Contact: Jerry Obst

Provides blood tests for lead free for individuals with Medicaid card.

## SANGAMON COUNTY

### **Sangamon County Public Health Clinic**

2501 N. Dirksen Parkway  
Springfield, IL 62702  
(217) 535-3102

Provides blood tests for lead for free if WIC eligible or for individuals with Medicaid card; fee is otherwise \$28.

### **Springfield Department of Public Health**

1415 E. Jefferson  
Springfield, IL 62703  
(217) 789-2182

Provides blood tests for lead free to children at 185% of poverty level; \$38 for others.

## STEPHENSON COUNTY

### **Stephenson County Health Department**

10 W. Linden St.  
Freeport, IL 61032  
(815) 235-8360

Contact: Diane Jordan-Williams

Provides blood tests for lead: free for individuals that qualify for the WIC program.

## VERMILION COUNTY

### **Vermilion County Health Department**

200 South College Street, Suite A  
Danville, IL 61832  
(217) 431-2662

Provides blood tests for lead: free for individuals with Medicaid card; \$30 with private insurance.

## WILL COUNTY

### **Will County Health Department**

501 Ella Ave.  
Joliet, IL 60433  
(815) 727-8480

Provides blood tests for lead free if resident of Will County; charges sliding scale fee for non-residents.

## WINNEBAGO COUNTY

### **Winnebago County Health Department**

401 Division Street  
Rockford, IL 61104  
(815) 720-4000

Provides free blood tests for lead for individuals with Medicaid card; otherwise \$10 fee.



## Case Management Resources for Lead Poisoned Children

### Case Management for Lead Poisoned Children

When a child is identified as lead poisoned (this means that the child has a level of lead in his blood of 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  [micrograms per deciliter] or higher) the Illinois Department of Public Health or the city or county health departments provide case management services to the family. These services include: counseling regarding possible sources of lead hazards and information on nutrition, hygiene and prevention. Other services include referrals for Public Aid and Early Intervention, and programs such as WIC and Food Stamps. Case management services vary but may also include referrals to home inspectors, special education programs, medical care, and housing resources. An environmental inspection can look at locations other than the home where the child spends time, such as day-care facilities. Case managers may also administer developmental tests. Additional services are offered through community based agencies, and clinics.

The Public Health Department is required to provide the following case management services as indicated by the blood lead levels below:

When a child **under three years of age** has a blood lead level of **10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  or higher**:

- A licensed lead risk assessor must inspect the home and common areas of the building.
- (Note: The Chicago Department of Public Health will conduct a home inspection for infants younger than 1-year-old who have blood lead levels equal to or above 6  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ .)

When **any child** has a blood lead level of **10-19  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$** :

- Parents are counseled on the need for repeat testing in three months.
- A home inspection is conducted if a child has three successive blood lead levels of 15-24  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ , or one test result greater than 15  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  and a second test result at least 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  higher than the first.
- (Note: The Chicago Department of Public Health will conduct a home inspection for children 3 years of age and older when the child's blood lead level is 15  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  or above.)



When a child has a blood lead level of 20-44  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ :

- parents are referred to a physician for medical evaluation and treatment within 10 days; a home visit by a health department nurse is scheduled; an inspection of the home for possible lead hazards by a licensed lead risk assessor may be conducted; and parents are counseled on the need for repeat testing monthly or per physician instructions.
- A physician also may request an inspection at levels of 20  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ .
- At levels greater than or equal to 25  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ , an inspection of the home for possible lead hazards is conducted by a licensed lead risk assessor and a home visit by a health department nurse is conducted.

When a child has a blood lead level of 45-69  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ :

- Parents are referred to a physician for medical evaluation and treatment within 48 hours
- A home visit is conducted by a health department nurse within 5 working days
- Parents are counseled on the need for repeat testing monthly or per physician instructions
- An inspection of the home for possible lead hazards is conducted within 5 working days.

When a child has a blood lead level of greater than or equal to 70  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ :

- Parents are referred to a physician for medical evaluation and treatment immediately. This is a medical emergency.
- A home visit is conducted by a health department nurse within 24-48 hours.

The Department of Public Health also must inspect homes under the following circumstances:

- children under 6 years of age, or a pregnant woman lives in the building, and
- the parent or guardian of the child, or the pregnant woman requests the inspection, and
- mitigation notices to repair lead hazards have been given for two or more units in the same building within the last five years.



## **Listing of Case Management Resources by Chicago and County\***

### **CHICAGO**

Provides case management services free or at minimal cost to families of lead-poisoned children and physician consultation through the Department of Public Health and the resources listed below.

#### **Chicago Department of Public Health**

2133 W. Lexington  
Chicago, IL 60612  
(312) 747-LEAD

Provides free case management services to families of lead poisoned children.

#### **Children's Memorial Hospital**

2300 Children's Plaza  
Chicago, IL 60614  
1-800-543-7362  
1-800-KIDS-DOC

Dr. Helen Binns, M.D., provides health care follow-up and case management services to families of lead-poisoned children upon referral by primary care physician.

Accepts Medicaid, insurance, or provides sliding scale of fees for uninsured families.

#### **Jorge Prieto Health Center**

2424 S. Pulaski Rd.  
Chicago, IL 60623  
(773) 521-0750  
Contact: Jim Donahue

Provides medical care and case management.

#### **Westside Health Authority**

5437 W. Division  
Chicago, IL 60651  
(773) 378-5034

Provides education and environmental case management but does not provide medical care.

#### **Lawndale Christian Health Center**

3860 W. Ogden Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60623  
(773) 846-3000

#### **Howard Area Community Center**

7648 N. Paulina  
Chicago, IL 60626  
(773) 262-6622

#### **PrimeCare Northwest**

4235 W. North Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60639  
(773) 278-6868

### **COOK COUNTY**

The following will refer parents to public health nurses who provide free or minimal cost case management to families of lead poisoned children.

#### **EVANSTON**

##### **Health and Human Services Department**

2100 Ridge  
Evanston, IL 60202  
(847) 866-2951  
Contact: Alisa Dean

#### **OAK PARK**

##### **Cook County Department of Public Health Lead Poisoning Prevention Unit**

1010 Lake St.  
Oak Park, IL 60301  
(708) 492-2076

Refers families of lead-poisoned children to public health nurses nearest to the family.

##### **Oak Park Health Department**

123 Madison  
Oak Park, IL 60302  
(708) 358-5486

Provides case management services to children with elevated blood lead levels.

##### **PCC Community Wellness Center**

14 W. Lake St.  
Oak Park, IL 60302  
(708) 383-0113

\*The contact and fee information included in this listing is accurate as of the date of publication of this guide.

## SKOKIE

### **Skokie Health Department**

5127 Oakton St.  
Skokie, IL 60077  
(847) 933-8252

Contact: Joan Hartford

Provides case management services to children with elevated blood lead levels.

## DUPAGE COUNTY

### **DuPage County Health Department**

111 N. County Farm Rd.  
Wheaton, IL 60187  
(630) 682-7979 x 7566

Contact: Lorene Pesole

Provides case management services to children with elevated blood lead levels.

## KANE COUNTY

### **Kane County Health Department**

1330 N. Highland Ave.  
Aurora, IL 60506  
(630) 897-1124

Provides case management services to children with elevated blood lead levels.

### **Kane County Public Health Center**

113 S. Grove Ave.  
Elgin, IL 60120  
(630) 695-0848

Provides case management services to children with elevated blood lead levels.

## KANKAKEE

### **Kankakee County Health Department**

2930 W. Station St.  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 937-3560

Contact: Connie Treece

Provides case management services to children with elevated blood lead levels.

## LAKE COUNTY

### **Lake County Health Department**

Belvidere Medical Building  
2400 Belvidere Rd.  
Waukegan, IL 60085

(847) 377-8400

Provides case management services to children with elevated blood lead levels.

## MACON COUNTY

### **Macon County Health Department**

1221 E. Condit St.  
Decatur, IL 62521  
(217) 423-6988

Contact: Cindy Smith, Children's Health Clinic

Provides case management services to children with elevated blood lead levels.

## PEORIA COUNTY

### **Peoria County Health Department**

2116 N. Sheridan Rd.  
Peoria, IL 61604  
(309) 679-6068

Provides case management services to children with elevated blood lead levels.

## ROCK ISLAND COUNTY

### **Rock Island County Health Department**

2112 25th Ave.  
Rock Island, IL 61201  
(309) 793-1955 x 295

Contact: Julie Engstrom

Provides case management services for children with elevated blood lead levels.



## ST. CLAIR COUNTY

### **St. Clair County Health Department**

19 Public Square, Suite 150  
Belleville, IL 62220-1624  
(618) 233-6175 x 4468

Contact: Jerry Obst

Provides case management services for children with elevated blood lead levels.

## SANGAMON COUNTY

### **Sangamon County Public Health Clinic**

2501 N. Dirksen Parkway  
Springfield, IL 62702  
(217) 535-3102

Provides case management services for children with elevated blood lead levels, but does not provide environmental investigations.

### **Springfield Department of Public Health**

1415 E. Jefferson  
Springfield, IL 62703  
(217) 789-2182

Provides case management services for children with elevated blood lead levels and does provide environmental investigations.

## STEPHENSON COUNTY

### **Stephenson County Health Department**

10 W. Linden St.  
Freeport, IL 61032  
(815) 235-8360

Contact: Diane Jordan-Williams

Provides case management services to children with elevated blood lead levels.

## VERMILION COUNTY

### **Vermilion County Health Department**

200 South College Street, Suite A  
Danville, IL 61832  
(217) 431-2662

Provides case management services to children with elevated blood lead levels.

## WILL COUNTY

### **Will County Health Department**

501 Ella Ave.  
Joliet, IL 60433  
(815) 727-8480

Provides case management services to children with elevated blood lead levels.

## WINNEBAGO COUNTY

### **Winnebago County Health Department**

401 Division Street  
Rockford, IL 61104  
(815) 720-4000

Provides case management services to children with elevated blood lead levels.



## **Special Education Resources**



## Special Education Resources

Recent scientific research concludes that 90% of brain development occurs between birth and age three. Lead poisoning is most harmful during these years because it interferes with brain development. This may lead to learning disabilities in the future. A lead poisoned child may show no signs that learning will be a problem until academic and social problems start showing up in school. She may have trouble concentrating, or be hyperactive and aggressive with other children, and lag behind the class in learning her numbers and letters. This, in turn, makes her more frustrated and slower to learn basic skills. The effects of lead can cause life-long learning problems.

Parents may feel frustrated and overwhelmed, too, and may not know how to get help or what services are available. If the child's blood shows that she is lead poisoned, the school should be told of the child's condition. The parent or the teacher may conclude that the child would benefit from special education classes.

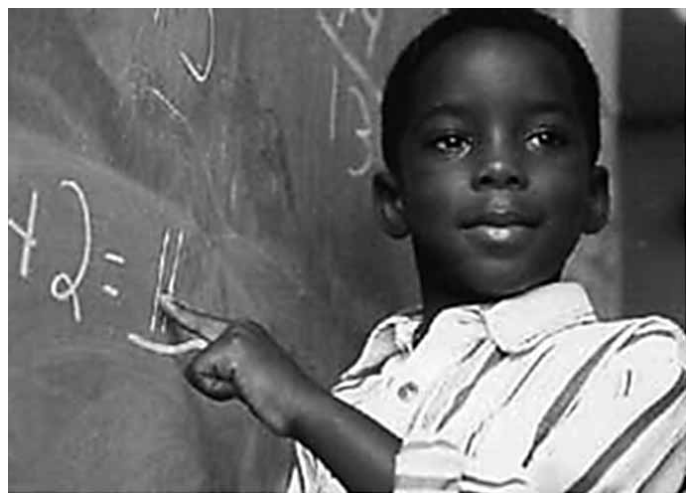
A diagnosis of lead poisoning does not automatically make a child eligible for special education. To be eligible for special education, a child must (1) have a disability and (2) need special education and related services. This means a child must show the effects of the lead poisoning in the form of a disability that interferes with the child's ability to learn in the classroom, such as a specific learning disability, behavior problems, or physical problems that require individualized services.

The determination of whether a child is eligible for special education is made after the child has been evaluated. Parents concerned that their child may have a disability and need special education and related services, can request their

school district to evaluate their child.

Keep in mind that a school may be required to offer accommodations to a child who does not qualify for special education services but who has problems that limit his ability to learn in major ways, such as hearing or breathing difficulties or an inability to organize or express his thoughts in the time it takes his classmates. The school, for instance, may accommodate a child who suffers from learning difficulties due to lead poisoning by giving the child extra time to complete assignments.

Because procedures and regulations are complicated, and it may be difficult to get accommodations, it is advisable to research carefully the evaluation and eligibility process, maintain good records of the child's medical and educational history, and, if necessary, seek legal advocacy to obtain educational services and accommodations. Parent advocacy groups can also be a source of support and guidance. The Appendix provides suggestions for communicating with a child's school and sample letters that may assist parents to request services or accommodations from the school.



The following listing includes resource centers and attorneys that provide advocacy, training, case management and/or legal services to families of children with disabilities needing special education. Chicago resources are listed first, followed by a statewide list alphabetically categorized by county. Inclusion on this list is not an endorsement of the services or agencies by Loyola's Civitas ChildLaw Center, and the listing is not intended to be inclusive of available services.

*The agencies and individuals listed in this section were compiled in part from the following resources: "One Parent to Another: Protecting the Educational Rights of Our Children" by Betsy E. Borgacz; "A Parent's Guide to the Educational Rights of Students with Disabilities" by the Illinois State Department of Education; the "2005 Directory of Health and Human Services in Metropolitan Chicago" by the Community Resource Network of United Way of Metropolitan Chicago; and Deborah Pergament, J.D.*

# Listing of Special Education Resources for Parent Support and Case Management by City\*

## CHICAGO

### **Center for Disability and Elder Law**

710 N. Lake Shore Drive,  
3rd Floor  
312/908-4463  
312/908-8705 (TTY)  
Fees: None

Provides legal assistance to parents of children with special education needs. Parents must meet income qualifications.

### **Designs for Change**

29 E. Madison, Suite 950  
Chicago, IL 60602  
1-800-851-8728 or 312-236-7252  
<http://designsforchange.org>  
Fees: None

Provides training and technical assistance and referrals to parents of children with disabilities. Upon request, will offer presentations on disability law and children's rights.

### **Family Resource Center on Disabilities**

20 E. Jackson Blvd., Room 300  
Chicago, IL 60604  
1-800-952-4199  
312-939-3513  
[www.frcd.org](http://www.frcd.org)  
Fees: None

This organization provides free, weekly seminars for parents about special education law. It also provides parent-to-parent training, individualized help with Individualized Education Programs (IEP's), and a support group (Family Support Project) for parents of children with disabilities.

## BELLEVILLE

### **Living Independently Now Center for Independent Living (LINC)**

120 East A St.  
Belleville, IL 62220  
618/235-9988 (V/TTY)  
[www.lincinc.org](http://www.lincinc.org)

Fees: None

Provides a youth and family caseworker to assist parents with special education needs for their children.

## BLOOMINGTON

### **IL-TASH**

406 W. Wood  
Bloomington, IL 61701  
630/584-0970  
[www.tash.org/chapters/illinois](http://www.tash.org/chapters/illinois)

This organization does not provide services, but it holds a statewide conference each year that addresses the learning characteristics and environments for children with disabilities.

## DECATUR

### **Soyland Access to Independent Living (SAIL)**

2449 Federal Drive  
Decatur, IL 62526  
217/876-8888 (V/TTY)  
800/358-8080 (V/TTY)  
[www.decaturisail.org](http://www.decaturisail.org)

Program Manager: Emily Dobson

Provides parent support groups and training for families with special education needs.

\*The information included in this listing is accurate as of the date of publication of this guide.

## EFFINGHAM

### **Family Matters Parent Training and Information Center**

2502 S. Veterans Drive

Effingham, IL 62401

217/347-5428

866/4FMPTIC or 866/436-7842

[www.fmptic.org](http://www.fmptic.org)

Fees: None

Provides one-on-one support and case management for families with special education needs in 94 counties in Illinois *not including Cook County*. This parent training and information center helps with Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings and provides periodic trainings on special education information. This organization has worked with lead-poisoned children and their families in the past.

## ELGIN

### **Fox River Valley Center for Independent Living**

730 W. Chicago St.

Elgin, IL 60123

847/695-5892

847/695-5868 (TTY)

Fees: None

Provides case management for children and families with special education needs

## FOREST PARK

### **Progress Center for Independent Living**

7521 Madison St.

Forest Park, IL 60130

708/209-1500

708/209-1826 (TTY)

<http://progresscil.org>

Fees: None

Educates parents about their rights and processes under special education law. Advocates on behalf of parents to obtain special education services for their children.

## GLEN ELLYN

### **DuPage Center for Independent Living**

739 Roosevelt Rd., Bldg. 8, Suite 109

Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

630/469-2300

Fees: None

Provides case management and general assistance to families with special education needs.

## JACKSONVILLE

### **Jacksonville Area Center for Independent Living**

60 East Central Park Plaza

Jacksonville, IL 62650

217/245-8371 (V/TTY)

[www.jacil.org](http://www.jacil.org)

Fees: None

Provides case management and general assistance to families with special education needs.

## JOLIET

### **Will/Grundy Center for Independent Living**

2415-A West Jefferson St.

Joliet, IL 60435

815/729-0162 (V)

815/729-2085 (TTY)

[www.will-grundycil.org](http://www.will-grundycil.org)

Provides parent support and training for families with special education needs.

## KANKAKEE

### **Options Center for Independent Living**

61 Meadowview Center

Kankakee, IL 60901

815/936-0100

815/936-0132 (TTY)

Fees: None

Contact: Dawn Hansen.

Provides general assistance to families with special education needs, including attending Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings.

## MT. VERNON

### **Opportunities for Access**

4206 Williamson Place, Suite 3

Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

618/244-9212

618/244-9575 (TDD)

Fees: None

Provides case management and general assistance to families with special education needs.

## MUNDELEIN

### **Lake County Center for Independent Living**

377 North Seymore

Mundelein, IL 60060

847/949-4440 (V/TTY)

847/949-0641 (TTY)

[www.lccil.org](http://www.lccil.org)

Fees: None

Provides Individualized Education Program (IEP) guidance, independent living skills, leadership training, mentor program, and employment readiness training to children and families with special education needs. Must reside in Lake County.

## PARK FOREST

### **Progress Center South**

400 Forest Blvd.

Park Forest, IL 60466

708/748-5156

Fees: None

Educates parents about their rights and processes under special education law. Advocates on behalf of parents to obtain special education services for their children.

## PEORIA

### **Central Illinois Center for Independent Living**

614 W. Glen

Peoria, IL 61614

309/682-3500

[www.cicil.org](http://www.cicil.org)

Fees: None

Provides Individualized Education Program (IEP) guidance, independent living skills, leadership training, mentor program, and employment readiness training to children and families with special education needs.

## QUINCY

### **Independence Network Center**

Durst Building, 406 N. 24th St., Suite 3.

Quincy, IL 62301

217/223-0400

217/233-0475 (TDD/TTY)

Fees: None

Contact: Yasmin Evans, Youth Advocate.

Advocates for parents of children with special education needs. Primarily attends Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings.

## ROCK FALLS

### **Northwestern Illinois Center for Independent Living**

229 First Ave. Suite 2

Rock Falls, IL 61071

815/625-7860

815/625-7863 (TTY)

Fees: None

Provides Individualized Education Program (IEP) guidance, independent living skills, leadership training, mentor program, and employment readiness training to children and families with special education needs.

## ROCKFORD

### **Regional Access and Mobilization Project (RAMP)**

202 Market Street  
Rockford, IL 61107  
815/968-7467 (V/TTY)  
815/968-2401 (TTY)  
Fees: None

Provides one-on-one case management for families with special education needs. Provides training, education, and assistance with Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings.

## SPRINGFIELD

### **Division of Special Care for Children**

2815 W. Washington Blvd., Suite 300  
Chicago, IL 60612  
217/793-2350  
Fees: None

Provides case coordination, one-on-one counseling, and special education advocacy for families with special education needs. There are financial and medical requirements to receive services.

### **Springfield Center for Independent Living**

330 S. Grand Ave. West  
Springfield, IL 62704  
217/523-2587 (V/TTY)  
www.scil.org  
Fees: None

Provides Individualized Education Program (IEP) guidance, independent living skills, leadership training, mentor program, and employment readiness training to children and families with special education needs.

## URBANA

### **Persons Assuming Control of Their Environment (PACE)**

1317 E. Florida  
Urbana, IL 61801  
217/344-5433  
217/344-5024 (TTY)  
www.pacecil.org



## Listing of Legal Advocacy for Special Education Services by City\*

### CHICAGO

#### **Children's Law Group**

47 W. Polk, Suite 300

Chicago, IL 60605

312/663-4426

[lgranger@childrenslawgroup.com](mailto:lgranger@childrenslawgroup.com)

[dpergament@childrenslawgroup.com](mailto:dpergament@childrenslawgroup.com)

[www.childrenslawgroup7.com](http://www.childrenslawgroup7.com)

#### **Matthew D. Cohen**

#### **Law Offices of Monahan & Cohen**

225 W. Washington #2300

Chicago, IL 60606

312/419-0252

[www.monahan-cohen.com](http://www.monahan-cohen.com)

#### **Law Office of Bruce de Medici**

333 W. Wacker Dr., Suite 300

Chicago, IL 60606

312/759-2194

[bdemedici@mandellmenkes.com](mailto:bdemedici@mandellmenkes.com)

Provides legal assistance to children and adults with physical and mental disabilities. See also Springfield Office.

#### **Equip for Equality**

20 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 300

Chicago, IL 60602

312/341-0022

800/537-2632

800/610-2779 (TTY)

[www.equipforequality.org](http://www.equipforequality.org)

Fees: Sliding scale

Provides legal assistance to children and adults with physical and mental disabilities. See also Springfield Office.

#### **Law Office of Charles P. Fox**

20 N. Clark St. #1725

Chicago, IL 60602

312/606-0221

#### **Legal Aid Bureau Metropolitan Family Services**

1 N. Dearborn

Chicago, IL 60602

312/986-4000

#### **Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago**

111 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 300

Chicago, IL 60604

312/341-1070

[www.lafchicago.org](http://www.lafchicago.org)

Fees: None for families at 125% poverty level.

Provides free legal assistance to families with special education needs.

#### **Law Offices of Michael O'Connor and Sara Mauk**

1427 Howard St.

Chicago, IL 60626

773/262-2377

#### **Law Office of Charles Stone**

79 W. Monroe

Chicago, IL 60603

312/372-9220

### ALTON

#### **Impact, Inc.**

2735 E. Broadway

Alton, IL 62002

618/474-5333

618/474-5303 (TTY)

[www.impactcil.org](http://www.impactcil.org)

Fees: None

Two parent advocates for children with special education needs. Debbie Goodman, one of the advocates, will attend Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings, counsel parents, and advocate for accommodations for children with special education needs.

\*The information included in this listing is accurate as of the date of publication of this guide.

**Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc.**

413 E. Broadway  
Alton, IL 62002  
618/462-0029  
800/642-5570

Fees: None  
877/342-7891 – Legal advice and referral number: available Mon – Fri 8:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.

Provides legal services and advice to low-income families of children with a variety of needs, including special education.

**Law Offices of Thomas E. Kennedy**

2745 E. Broadway #101  
Alton, IL 62002  
618/474-5326

BATAVIA

**Prairie State Legal Services, Inc.**

201 Houston St., Suite 200  
Batavia, IL 60510  
630/232-9415  
800-942-4612  
630/232-9414 (TDD)  
Fees: None

Provides legal services and advice to low-income families of children who have been denied required special education services.

BLOOMINGTON

**Prairie State Legal Services, Inc.**

316 W. Washington St.  
Bloomington, IL 61701  
309/827-5021  
800/874-2536  
309/828-3986 (TDD)  
Fees: None

Provides legal services and advice to low-income families of children who have been denied required special education services.

BUFFALO GROVE

**Brian Rubin & Associates**

1110 W. Lake Cook Rd., Suite 165  
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089-1997  
847/279-7999

CAROL STREAM

**Prairie State Legal Services, Inc.**

350 South Schmale Road, Suite 150  
Carol Stream, IL 60188  
630/690-2130  
800/690-2130  
630/690-2308 (TDD)

Fees: None

Provides legal services and advice to low-income families of children who have been denied required special education services.

CHAMPAIGN

**Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc.**

1817 South Neil, Suite 203  
P.O. Box 1278  
Champaign, IL 61820  
217/356-1351  
800/747-5523  
Fees: None

Provides legal services and advice to low income families of children with a variety of needs, including special education.

DOWNER'S GROVE

**Law Office of Michael L. Kiser**

4713 Seeley Ave.  
Downer's Grove, IL 60515  
630/725-0064

## EAST ST. LOUIS

### **Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc.**

327 Missouri Ave., Suite 300  
East St. Louis, IL 62201  
618/271-9140

Fees: None

Provides legal services and advice to low income families of children with a variety of needs, including special education.

## EVANSTON

### **Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago**

828 Davis Street, Room 201  
Evanston, IL 60201  
847/475-3703

Fees: None

Provides legal assistance to families with special education needs. Families must be 125% over poverty level to receive services.

## FLORA

### **Law Office of Barry D. Bright**

P.O. Box 603  
Flora, IL 62839  
618/662-9585

## GALESBURG

### **Prairie State Legal Services, Inc.**

1614 East Knox St.  
Galesburg, IL 61401  
309/343-2141  
800/331-0617

## HARVEY

### **Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago**

900 East 162nd Street, Suite 101  
South Holland, IL 60473  
708/271-4950

Fees: None

Provides legal services to families with special education needs. Family must be 125% over poverty level to receive services.

## JOLIET

### **Will County Legal Assistance Program**

5 East Van Buren, Suite 310  
Joliet, IL 60432  
815/727-5123

Fees: None

Provides legal services to families with special education needs. Family must be 125% over poverty level to receive services.

## KANKAKEE

### **Prairie State Legal Services, Inc.**

191 South Chicago Street  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
815/935-2750  
800/346-2864  
815/935-2764

Fees: None

Provides legal services and advice to low income families of children who have been denied required special education services.

## MATTOON

### **Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc.**

80 Broadway, Suite 202  
Mattoon, IL 61938  
217/345-4063

Fees: None

Provides legal services and advice to low income families of children with a variety of needs, including special education.

## MURPHYSBORO

### **Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation**

509 S. University, 3rd Floor  
Carbondale, IL 62901  
(618) 457-7800  
(877) 342-7891

Fees: None

Provides free legal services and advice to low income families of children with a variety of needs, including special education.

### **Law Office of Joni Beth Taylor**

Office located on the courthouse square,  
Jackson County  
1008 Walnut St.  
Murphysboro, IL 62966  
618/684-8668

## NAPERVILLE

### **Law Offices of Cahill & Associates**

1155 S. Washington St. #106  
Naperville, IL 60540  
630/778-6500

## NORTHBROOK/SKOKIE

### **Law Offices of Addis, Greenberg, & Schultz, L.L.C.**

707 Skokie Blvd Ste 540  
Northbrook, IL 60062  
847/412-1863  
www.agselaw.com

### **Law Office of Steven Glink**

3338 Commercial Avenue  
Northbrook, IL 60062  
847/480-7749  
www.educationrights.com

### **Micki Moran**

### **The Child and Family Law Center Ltd.**

105 Revere Dr., Suite C  
Northbrook, IL 60062  
847/929-0101

### **Law Offices of Brooke R. Whitted and Lara A. Cleary**

### **Whitted & Cleary LLC**

3000 Dundee Rd., #303  
Northbrook, IL 60062  
847/564-8662  
www.whittedcleary.com

## OTTAWA

### **Prairie State Legal Services, Inc.**

1021 Clinton St.  
Ottawa, IL 61350  
815/434-5903  
800/892-7888

Fees: None

Provides legal services and advice to low income families of children who have been denied required special education services.

## PALATINE

### **Special Education Advocacy Center**

Jill Dressner, Executive Director  
1935 Plum Grove Rd. #274  
Palatine, IL 60067  
847/736-8286

Fees: None

Provides legal representation for low-income parents of children with special education needs. Represents children at mediation, due process hearings, and other court appearances.

## PEORIA

### **Prairie State Legal Services, Inc.**

331 Fulton St., Suite 600

Peoria, IL 61602

309/674-9831

800/322-2280

Fees: None

Provides legal services and advice to low income families of children who have been denied required special education services.

## ROCK ISLAND

### **Equip for Equality, Inc.**

#### **Northwestern Region**

1612 Second Ave.

Rock Island, IL 61204

309/786-6868

800/758-6869

800/610/2779 (TTY)

Fees: Sliding scale

Provides legal assistance to children and adults with physical and mental disabilities, serving families throughout Illinois.

### **Prairie State Legal Services, Inc.**

208-18th Street, Suite 202

P.O. Box 4863

Rock Island, IL 61204

309/794-1328

800/322-9804

309/793-1302 (TDD)

Fees: None

Provides legal services and advice to low income families of children who have been denied required special education services.

## ROCKFORD

### **Prairie State Legal Services, Inc.**

975 N. Main St.

Rockford, IL 61103

815/965-2902

800/892-2985

815/965-5114 (TDD)

Fees: None

Provides legal services and advice to low income families of children who have been denied required special education services

## SPRINGFIELD

### **Equip for Equality, Inc.**

#### **Central/Southern Region**

427 E. Monroe, Suite 302

P.O. Box 276

Chicago, IL 60603

217/544-0464

800/758-0464

Fees: Sliding scale

Provides legal assistance to children and adults with physical and mental disabilities, serving families throughout Illinois.

### **Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation**

730 E. Vine, Suite 214

P.O. Box 2206

Springfield, IL 62705

217/753-3300

800/252-8629

Fees: None

Provides free legal services and advice to low income families of children with a variety of needs, including special education.

WAUKEGAN

**Prairie State Legal Services, Inc.**

325 W. Washington St, Suite 100

Waukegan, IL 60085

847/662-6925

800/942-3940

847/662-4441

Fees: None

Provides legal services to low income families  
who have been denied special education services.

## Statewide Advocacy and Education Resources\*

### CHICAGO

#### **Council for Disability Rights**

30 E. Adams, #1130  
Chicago, IL 60603  
312/444-9484

[www.disabilityrights.org](http://www.disabilityrights.org)

Peer managed and staffed information agency advocating for rights and responsibilities of people with disabilities and their families for their full inclusion in society.

#### **Voices for Illinois Children**

208 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 1490  
Chicago, IL 60604  
312/456-0600

[www.voices4kids.org](http://www.voices4kids.org)

Develops and promotes a variety of legislative and policy initiatives that support the development of children and families in Illinois.

### HOMEWOOD

#### **The Arc of Illinois**

1820 Ridge Road, Suite 300  
708/206-1930  
[www.thearcofil.org](http://www.thearcofil.org)

Provides public policy advocacy, education and training, referrals, technical support, and lobbying for people with disabilities and their families.

### SPRINGFIELD

#### **Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities in Illinois**

300 E. Monroe, Suite 100  
Springfield IL 62701  
217/522-7016

[www.ccdionline.org](http://www.ccdionline.org)

A statewide advocacy organization advocating equal opportunities for all people with disabilities through change at the local, state, and federal levels.

#### **Community and Residential Services Authority**

100 N. First St., S-100  
Springfield, IL 62777  
217/782-2438

The CRSA is an agency created by the Illinois Legislature to coordinate services to meet the needs of individuals 21 years of age or younger with a behavior disorder or a severe emotional disturbance and their family. A parent, agency, or other advocate may refer a dispute on behalf of the individual to CRSA to receive help in resolving disagreements about service, placement, or funding for services.

#### **State Department of Education: Special Education**

Center for Innovation & Reform  
Program Compliance  
Jan Shook, Division Administrator  
100 N. First Street, E-228  
Springfield, IL 62777  
217/782-5589

#### **Help Me Grow Hotline**

535 W. Jefferson  
Springfield, IL 62704  
217/557-3776  
800/323-GROW

Offers referrals and information about child and family services statewide including: preventive health care, immunizations, parental and family involvement, child abuse prevention, child safety, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, intergenerational interaction, and gang and violence prevention.

\*The information included in this listing is accurate as of the date of publication of this guide.

**Illinois Planning Council on  
Developmental Disabilities**

830 S. Spring Street  
Springfield, IL 62704  
217/782-9696

ICDD is responsible for investing in new programs to improve the delivery of services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in Illinois. The Council focuses on education, employment, transportation, community

living, health care and other areas so that people with developmental disabilities can enjoy their lives to the fullest extent possible. ICDD also works to build the capabilities of individuals, families and communities, enabling each to become more self-sufficient through the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (the DD Act).

**Illinois State Bar Association**

424 S. Second St.  
217/525-1760  
(800) 252-8908

Provides a legal referral service.

**Parent Training and Partnership Project**

Deb Kunz, Statewide Parent Consultant  
Illinois State Board of Education  
100 N. First St. E228  
Springfield, IL 62777-0001  
217-782-5589

Parent Training and Information Centers (PTICs) are located throughout Illinois to provide training and technical assistance to parents of children and youth with disabilities.

WHERE TO FIND ILLINOIS SPECIAL  
EDUCATION LAW:

<http://www.isbe.net/rules/archive/pdfs/226ark.pdf>  
or contact:

Illinois State Board of Education  
100 N. 1st St.  
Springfield, IL 62777

*A Parents' Guide: the Educational Rights  
of Students with Disabilities*

This free, 86-page guide created by the Illinois State Board of Education, includes helpful information on special education screening, eligibility, Individual Education Programs (IEP's), private schools, behavioral interventions, discipline, conflict resolution, school records, early childhood services, Medicaid, laws (IDEA, ADA, Section 504, and Early Intervention), information about least restrictive environment, a dictionary, sample letters, and information on obtaining legal or advocacy assistance.

[http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/  
parent\\_guide\\_english.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/parent_guide_english.pdf)  
[English version]

[http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/  
parent\\_guide\\_spanish.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/parent_guide_spanish.pdf)  
[Spanish version]



## National Advocacy and Education Resources

### **Council of Parents, Attorneys and Advocates**

P.O. Box 6767  
Towson, MD 21285  
443/451-5270  
www.copaa.org

Fees: \$50 annual membership fee for parents

Exclusive membership benefits include two email discussion groups (listservs); an annual training and educational conference for parents, advocates, and attorneys; access to database of legal documents to assist parents in advocacy process; and access to expert materials produced by leading special education attorneys and advocates.

### **U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights – Region V**

111 N. Canal St., Room 1053  
Chicago, IL 60606  
312/886-8434

Serves student populations to resolve complaints of discrimination in school.

### USEFUL WEB SITES

**<http://illinoisparents.org/>**

IllinoisParents.org links parents directly to local programs, services, and community agencies. The site contains statewide resources, local resources by county, and telephone hotlines.

**[www.illinoisspecial.com](http://www.illinoisspecial.com)**

This site is dedicated to helping parents of children with disabilities in Illinois. There is an extensive list of resources that includes parent groups, child advocates, IEP books, legal research sources, special education links, the Illinois Board of Education, and contact information for Illinois politicians.

**[http://www.isbe.state.il.us/iicc/pdf/advocate\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.isbe.state.il.us/iicc/pdf/advocate_fact_sheet.pdf)**

The Illinois State Board of Education provides these guidelines for choosing a lay advocate for special education. The site also explains the role of a lay advocate for special education and how the lay advocate can assist the parents of a child with special education needs.

**[http://www.isbe.state.il.us/spec-ed/pdfs/attorney\\_guideline.pdf](http://www.isbe.state.il.us/spec-ed/pdfs/attorney_guideline.pdf)**

The Illinois State Board of Education provides these guidelines for choosing an attorney for special education representation.

**<http://www.iser.com/index.shtml>**

Internet Special Education Resources (ISER) is a nationwide directory of professionals that work with learning disabilities and special education. ISER helps parents find local special education professionals.

**[www.oneparent2another.4t.com](http://www.oneparent2another.4t.com)**

Betsy Borgacz is a Chicago parent who has turned her own experiences as a parent with a special needs child into a guidebook for other parents.

**[www.php.com](http://www.php.com)**

Parents Helping Parents (PHP) is a nonprofit, family resource center for children with special needs, including learning disabilities and behavior disorders. PHP aims to help children with special needs receive the respect, hope, and the health and education resources they need from strong families, dedicated professionals, and responsive systems.

**[www.schwablearning.org](http://www.schwablearning.org)**

A Parent's Guide to Helping Kids with Learning Difficulties.

This site contains information for parents of children with disabilities focusing on learning differences. There are numerous timely and frequently updated articles on advocating for children and services for children.

**[www.specialneedsplanning.com](http://www.specialneedsplanning.com)**

This site provides information and support for financial planning for families that have a member with special needs or a disability. The project is run by two financial consultants who each have family members with special needs.

**[www.wrightslaw.com](http://www.wrightslaw.com)**

Web site with useful information on special education law. It provides legal resources that are accessible to parents, training for advocates, and other information.

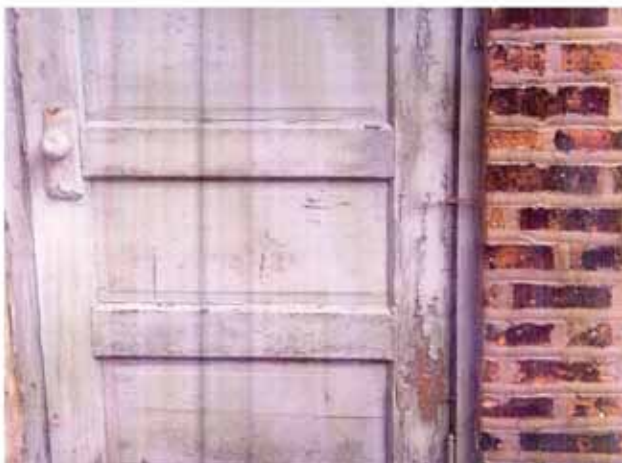


## Appendix



## Images of Peeling and Flaking Lead Paint

*Most children are lead poisoned in their homes, and deteriorating lead paint on windows, doors, and porches in homes built before 1978 is the main cause. Lead poisoning occurs when children touch lead-contaminated dust or paint chips and then put their hands in their mouths. Lead hazards are not always as apparent as in these images.*



Pictures courtesy of Chicago Department of Public Health

## High-Risk ZIP Code Areas

<b>Adams</b>	61053	60153	<b>Edwards</b>	<b>Gallatin</b>	<b>Henry</b>	<b>Johnson</b>
62301	61074	60201	62476	62934	61234	62908
62320	61078	60202	62806		61235	62923
62324		60301	62815	<b>Greene</b>	61238	
62339	<b>Cass</b>	60302	62818	62016	61274	<b>Kane</b>
62346	62611	60304		62027	61413	60120
62348	62618	60305	<b>Effingham</b>	62044	61419	60505
62349	62627	60402	None	62050	61434	<b>Kankakee</b>
62365	62691	60406		62054	61443	60901
		60456	<b>Fayette</b>	62078	61468	60910
<b>Alexander</b>	<b>Champaign</b>	60501	62458	62081	61490	60917
62914	61815	60513	62880	62082		60954
62988	61816	60534	62885	62092	<b>Iroquois</b>	60969
	61845	60546			60911	
<b>Bond</b>	61849	60804	<b>Ford</b>	<b>Grundy</b>	60912	<b>Kendall</b>
62273	61851		60919	60437	60924	None
	61852	<b>Crawford</b>	60933	60474	60926	
<b>Boone</b>	61862	62433	60936		60930	Knox
61038	61872	62449	60946	<b>Hamilton</b>	60931	61401
		62451	60952	62817	60938	61410
<b>Brown</b>	<b>Christian</b>		60957	62828	60945	61414
62353	62083	<b>Cumberland</b>	60959	62829	60951	61436
62375	62510	62428	60962	62859	60953	61439
62378	62517		61773		60955	61458
	62540	<b>De Witt</b>		<b>Hancock</b>	60966	61467
<b>Bureau</b>	62546	61727	<b>Franklin</b>	61450	60967	61474
61312	62555	61735	62812	62311	60968	61485
61314	62556	61749	62819	62313	60973	61489
61315	62557	61750	62822	62316		61572
61322	62567	61777	62825	62318	<b>Jackson</b>	
61323	62570	61778	62874	62321	62927	<b>Lake</b>
61328		61882	62884	62330	62940	60040
61329	<b>Clark</b>		62891	62334	62950	
61330	62420	<b>DeKalb</b>	62896	62336		<b>La Salle</b>
61337	62442	60111	62983	62354	<b>Jasper</b>	60470
61338	62474	60129	62999	62367	62432	60518
61344	62477	60146		62373	62434	60531
61345	62478	60550	<b>Fulton</b>	62379	62459	61301
61346			61415	62380	62475	61316
61349	<b>Clay</b>	<b>Douglas</b>	61427		62480	61321
61359	62824	61930	61431	<b>Hardin</b>		61325
61361	62879	61941	61432	62919	<b>Jefferson</b>	61332
61362		61942	61441	62982	62883	61334
61368	<b>Clinton</b>		61477			61342
61374	62219	<b>DuPage</b>	61482	<b>Henderson</b>	<b>Jersey</b>	61348
61376		60519	61484	61418	62030	61354
61379	<b>Coles</b>		61501	61425	62063	61358
	61931	<b>Edgar</b>	61519	61454		61364
<b>Calhoun</b>	61938	61917	61520	61460	<b>Jo Daviess</b>	61370
62006	61943	61924	61524	61469	61028	61372
62013	62469	61932	61531	61471	61075	
62036		61933	61542	61480	61085	<b>Lawrence</b>
62070	<b>Cook</b>	61940	61543		61087	62439
	All Chicago	61944	61544			62460
<b>Carroll</b>	ZIP Codes	61949	61563			62466
61014	60043					
61051	60104					

**Appendix**  
**High Risk ZIP Code Areas**

<b>Lee</b>	62685	<b>Menard</b>	<b>Perry</b>	<b>St. Clair</b>	<b>Union</b>	<b>Whiteside</b>
60553	62686	62642	62832	62201	62905	61037
61006	62690	62673	62997	62203	62906	61243
61031		62688		62204	62920	61251
61042	<b>Madison</b>		<b>Piatt</b>	62205	62926	61261
61310	62002	<b>Mercer</b>	61813	62220		61270
61318	62048	61231	61830	62289	<b>Vermilion</b>	61277
61324	62058	61260	61839	<b>Saline</b>	60932	61283
61331	62060	61263	61855	62930	60942	
61353	62084	61276	61929	62946	60960	<b>Will</b>
61378	62090	61465	61936		60963	60432
	62095	61466		<b>Sangamon</b>	61810	60433
<b>Livingston</b>		61476	<b>Pike</b>	62625	61831	60436
60420	<b>Marion</b>	61486	62312	62689	61832	<b>Williamson</b>
60460	None		62314	62703	61833	62921
60920		<b>Monroe</b>	62323		61844	62948
60921	<b>Marshall</b>	None	62340	<b>Schuyler</b>	61848	62949
60929	61369		62343	61452	61857	62951
60934	61377	<b>Montgomery</b>	62345	62319	61865	
61311	61424	62015	62352	62344	61870	<b>Winnebago</b>
61313	61537	62019	62355	62624	61876	61077
61333	61541	62032	62356	62639	61883	61101
61740		62049	62357			61102
61741	<b>Mason</b>	62051	62361	<b>Scott</b>	<b>Wabash</b>	61103
61743	62617	62056	62362	62621	62410	61104
61769	62633	62075	62363	62663	62852	
61775	62644	62077	6236	62694	62863	<b>Woodford</b>
	62655	62089	662370			61516
<b>Logan</b>	62664	62091		<b>Shelby</b>	<b>Warren</b>	61545
62512	62682	62094	<b>Pope</b>	62438	61412	61570
62518		62538	None	62534	61417	61760
62519	<b>Massac</b>			62553	61423	61771
62548	62953	<b>Morgan</b>	<b>Pulaski</b>		61435	
62543		62601	62956	<b>Stark</b>	61447	
62635	<b>McDonough</b>	62628	62963	61421	61453	January 2005
62643	61411	62631	62964	61426	61462	
62666	61416	62692	62976	61449	61473	
62671	61420	62695	62992	61479	61478	
<b>Macon</b>	61422			61483		
62514	61438	<b>Moultrie</b>	<b>Putnam</b>	61491	<b>Washington</b>	
62521	61440	61937	61336		62214	
62522	61470		61340	<b>Stephenson</b>	62803	
62523	61475	<b>Ogle</b>	61363	61018		
62526	62374	61007		61032	<b>Wayne</b>	
62537		61030	<b>Randolph</b>	61039	62446	
62551	<b>McHenry</b>	61047	62217	61044	62823	
	60034	61049	62242	61050	62843	
<b>Macoupin</b>		61054	62272	61060	62886	
62009	<b>McLean</b>	61064		61062		
62033	61701	61091	<b>Richland</b>	61067	<b>White</b>	
62069	61720		62419	61089	62820	
62085	61722	<b>Peoria</b>	62425		62821	
62088	61724	61451		<b>Tazewell</b>	62835	
62093	61728	61529	<b>Rock Island</b>	61539	62844	
62626	61730	61552	61201	61564	62887	
62630	61731	61602	61236	61721		
62640	61737	61603	61239	61734		
62649	61770	61604	61259			
62672		61605	61265			
62674		61606	61279			

## Materials for Parents

### Illinois Department of Public Health Childhood Lead Risk Assessment Questionnaire

**ALL CHILDREN 6 MONTHS THROUGH 6 YEARS MUST BE ASSESSED FOR LEAD POISONING.  
(410 ILCS 45/6.2)**

**A documented result of a blood lead test or a properly filled out Childhood Lead Risk Assessment Questionnaire must be attached to a Certificate of Child Health Examination form for purposes of admission to an Illinois Department of Children and Family Services or state regulated child-care facility, including those operated by a school district.**

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Age \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Child's ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Respond to the following questions by circling the appropriate answer.</b>	<b>R E S P O N S E</b>
---	------------------------

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Is this child eligible for or enrolled in Medicaid, Head Start, KidCare, All Kids or WIC?  | Yes No Don't Know |
| 2. Does this child have a sibling with a blood lead level of 10 mcg/dL or higher?   | Yes No Don't Know |
| 3. Does this child live in or regularly visit a home that was built before 1978?  | Yes No Don't Know |
| 4. In the past one year, has this child been exposed to repairs, repainting, or renovation of a home built before 1978?   | Yes No Don't Know |
| 5. Is this child a refugee or an adoptee from any foreign country?  | Yes No Don't Know |
| 6. Has this child ever been to Mexico, Central or South America, Asian countries (i.e., China or India), or any country where exposure to lead from certain items could have occurred (for example, cosmetics, home remedies, folk medicines or glazed pottery)?  | Yes No Don't Know |
| 7. Does this child live with someone who has a job or a hobby that may involve lead (for example, jewelry making, building renovation or repair, bridge construction, plumbing, furniture refinishing, or work with automobile batteries or radiators, lead solder, leaded glass, lead shots, bullets or lead fishing sinkers)? | Yes No Don't Know |
| 8. At any time, has this child lived near a factory where lead is used (for example, a lead smelter or a paint factory)?  | Yes No Don't Know |

-----  
If there is any "Yes" or "Don't Know" response; **and**

- there has been no change in the child's living conditions; **and**
- the child has proof of two (2) consecutive blood lead test results (documented below) that are each less than 10 mcg/dL (with one test at age 2 or older), a blood lead test is not needed at this time.

Test 1: Blood Lead Result \_\_\_\_\_ mcg/dL Date \_\_\_\_\_ Test 2: Blood Lead Result \_\_\_\_\_ mcg/dL Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please discuss any questions or concerns with your child's health care provider. For more information, call:

Illinois Department of Public Health  
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program  
800-545-2200 or 217-782-0403  
TTY (hearing impaired use only) 800-547-0466

### Questions You Should Be asked at a Child’s Medical Check-Up

1. Does the child live, or has the child recently resided, in a high-risk ZIP code?
2. Does the child live in or regularly visit a home that was built before 1950? Has the child ever lived in or regularly visited a home that was built before 1950?
3. If the child lives in or regularly visits a home, school or daycare center built before 1978 (older than 20 years), does it have peeling or chipping paint? Is it being repaired or remodeled?
4. Is the child eligible for or enrolled in Medicaid, Head Start, KidCare or WIC?
5. Does the child live with someone whose occupation or hobby may involve lead (e.g., building renovation or repair, bridge construction, plumbing, furniture refinishing, or work with automobile batteries or radiators, lead solder, leaded glass, lead shots, bullets or lead fishing sinkers)?
6. At any time has the child lived near a factory where lead is used (e.g., a lead smelter or a paint factory)?
7. Has the child ever been to Mexico, Central or South America, Asia or any country where exposure to lead from certain items (e.g., cosmetics, home remedies, folk medicines or glazed pottery) could potentially occur?

*Children with one or more positive responses, or responses of “I don’t know,” to any portion of this questionnaire will be considered high risk and will need a blood test for lead poisoning.*

### Questions to Ask the Doctor

1. How will you test my child for lead?
2. What are the differences between lead tests?
3. What are the symptoms of lead poisoning?
4. What are the effects of lead poisoning?
5. What is my child’s blood lead level?
6. What do the test results mean?
7. If treatment is needed, what treatment is recommended?
8. What are the side effects of the treatment?
9. When should my child be tested again?
10. What foods should my child be eating at this time?
11. When can other family members be tested?

*The list of “Questions to Ask the Doctor” was prepared by the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System for the Connecticut Department of Public Health and funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – New England.*





## Suggestions for Communicating with Your Child's School

Parents should be aware that schools are required by law to follow-up on developmental concerns about a child by evaluating the child. Parents should start by writing the school (and having the child's doctor write the school) to request a developmental evaluation and development of an IEP (individualized education program). In Illinois, the school has sixty (60) days to conduct the evaluation and develop the plan.

### READY TO FIRE OFF AN ANGRY LETTER TO SCHOOL? CONSIDER THESE TEN TIPS FIRST

#### 1. STATE WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, HOW

Begin your letter with a brief statement of the problem or issue you wish addressed and what action you would like the school to take. When describing an event or incident, use neutral language, avoid accusations.

#### 2. KEEP IT SHORT AND SIMPLE

Like most of us, teachers and administrators are busy people. Do not drudge up issues that have been resolved before. Stick to the point. A letter is simply a tool to state a problem and seek a reasonable resolution.

#### 3. WRITE TO THE RIGHT PERSON ABOUT THE RIGHT ISSUE

Make sure you are writing to someone who has the authority to investigate the problem or take the appropriate action. Sending correspondence to individuals without a legitimate interest just to intimidate school personnel can get you in trouble.

#### 4. YOUR LETTER WILL HAVE A LIFE OF ITS OWN

Once you send a letter you lose control over the information and statements contained in it. Do not include any information or any statement that you do not want disclosed to other parties.

#### 5. KEEP GOOD RECORDS

Make copies of all letters and emails and notes of all of the meetings and conversations you have about an issue. If you hire a lawyer, provide her with copies of all your documents.

#### 6. DO NOT MAKE THREATS

Do not state you have or will take a specific action unless you mean it. Overstatements usually result in a loss of credibility.

#### 7. ALWAYS BE POLITE

Avoid the temptation to hurl zingers, no matter how well deserved, against school personnel. Parents have been sued for libel over statements made in letters about bad teachers and coaches.

**8. BE REALISTIC ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S SITUATION**

Parents naturally want to advocate strongly for their children and protect them. However, no child is perfect; acting like he is will not resolve the situation.

**9. TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN**

If developmentally and emotionally appropriate, talk to your child about the letter. Your child may have strong feelings about your plan and good suggestions about a course of action.

**10. SOME ISSUES ARE TOO BIG TO HANDLE ALONE**

If your child is facing disciplinary action like suspension or expulsion, you may want to consider consulting with an attorney. Or, if your child may have a disability and is not receiving the services required, you may want legal help.

*This list was developed by the Children's Law Group. For more suggestions on working with schools, visit [www.childrenslawgroup.com](http://www.childrenslawgroup.com).*

## Sample Letters

(Parent Address)  
(Parent Phone Number)  
(Date)

Mr./Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Superintendent or Principal)

(District Address)

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

I am the parent of \_\_\_\_\_ whose date of birth is \_\_\_\_\_, and who is a student in the \_\_\_\_\_ grade at \_\_\_\_\_ School.

I am referring my child for a special education case study evaluation for the following reasons:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

I understand that if the school district accepts my referral request, the 60-school-day timeline for the case study begins with receipt of this letter. I also understand that the district must obtain my consent prior to conducting the case study evaluation.

Finally, if the school district turns down my request, I will expect the district to provide me with a written explanation of the reasons for not conducting a case study evaluation promptly as is required by the state regulations.

Thank you in advance for your prompt response to this request.

Sincerely,

(Parent's Signature)

*This sample letter reprinted with the permission of Helen Binns, M.D., Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago, Illinois*





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*Eliminating  
Childhood  
Lead Poisoning*

**Lead Safe Housing Initiatives  
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