Anishinabe Legal Services Newsletter

Serving the Leech Lake, Red Lake, & White Earth Reservations

Cass Lake, Minnesota • July 2021

P.O. Box 157, Cass Lake, MN 56633 • Phone 218-335-2223 or 1-800-422-1335

From the Director:

By: Chari LaDuke-Clark
Admin Director

We have had a busy 2021! In January our new building was complete so after furniture was delivered, we packed up our stuff at the Leech Lake Financial Services' temporary office and began to work from the brand new building located at 411 1st Street NW. There were several things that needed to be completed after the winter thaw, including concrete and landscaping, but many staff were excited to return to an in-office setting. The *doors continue to remain locked,* and we respectfully request individuals visiting the office wear masks still due to safety issues and COVID-19 precautions. All we ask is that you call ahead for assistance, and we would be happy to help.

At the time of this writing, many agencies are "opening" up following the MN Governor's announcement that the mask mandate is lifted, and things are feeling a bit more normalized around us. We will revisit the precautions in place at ALS a bit later this summer.

We held an outdoor open house and shared photos to our social media and websites. We are excited to thank all of our generous funders for the help in getting **over half of the building costs paid for in advance!** We still are fund raising in hopes to lower the mortgage and use the program's general operating funds for direct client services. *Please contact our office if you are interested in supporting Anishinabe Legal Services or see the donation form on page 12!* We have had many partners that made this new building possible and are grateful for each and every one of you. A special thanks also goes to the contractors who got everything working for us. It was a very involved process.

Onto **client services** and **staff-**

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Native Americans and the Vote

By: Ellen Weinberg
Staff Attorney

The term Native American is used when the author is writing in her own words. The term Indian is used when it is part of a quote or title of a law.

With the presidential election less than a year in the past, this is a good time to consider Native Americans' history in the electoral system. Anishinabe Legal Services, like all other legal aid law firms, is non-partisan.

The U.S. Constitution as originally written recognized Native American tribes as sovereign nations and therefore did not consider them citizens. The 14th Amendment to the Constitution granted citizenship and voting rights to Black people but was interpreted to exclude Native Americans.

Native Americans gained citizenship under the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924, also known as the Snyder Act for the representative who introduced it. The Snyder Act was passed partly to acknowledge the active participation of Native Americans in World War I.

Some Native Americans were already citizens. Payment of taxes, military service, marriage to a white person, or accepting a land allotment under the Dawes Act of 1887 were all ways for Native Americans to acquire citizenship. However, Native Americans who acquired citizenship in those ways were a minority. The Snyder Act covered all Native Americans.

The Native American community did not unanimously welcome the Snyder Act. Some were concerned that it would interfere with tribal sovereignty and encourage assimilation. There was also concern about whether, in light of the history of its treatment of Native Americans, the government could be

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From the Director

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ing: We are fortunate to have had enough funding to increase program capacity by adding another staff attorney for a total of 2 paralegals and 6 attorneys available for client services. The office has added additional legal topics to its list of services this year but maintains priorities to assist victims of domestic abuse, elders, and with Indian Law matters.

ALS welcomes staff attorney Heather Labat who is providing general information and advice on a variety of topics. Heather has previous experience as a public defender and is familiar with the client community. During the past six months, ALS has also worked with Megan Carmichael who has provided a focus on elder services. Unfortunately Megan has left to return to her homestate but she did an amazing job during her time here.

ALS is also excited to announce that David Eischens, former LLTC-ALS intern and front desk support staff, was promoted to Certified Disability Benefits Representative/paralegal. David worked very hard in the year and comp his certification proc

Finally, Joni joins the team to with client intakes attorney support s es in the office. Jo Leech Lake descer and enrolled memb Cheyenne River tribe. She and her f make their home o Leech Lake Reservat

Native Americans and the Vote

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trusted.

However, other tribes believed that citizenship would give them a national political identity and a stronger voice in issues affecting Native Americans.

The Snyder Act reads:

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all non-citizen Indians born within the territorial limits of the United States be, and they are hereby, declared to be citizens of the United States: Provided that the granting of such citizenship shall not in any manner impair or otherwise affect the right of an Indian to tribal or other property.

However, this law did not grant Native Americans the right to vote, because the Constitution largely allows the states to decide who can vote. There are three exceptions: Constitutional amendments that granted the vote to Black men and to women, and lowered the voting age to 18. There was never an amendment granting the vote to Native Americans.

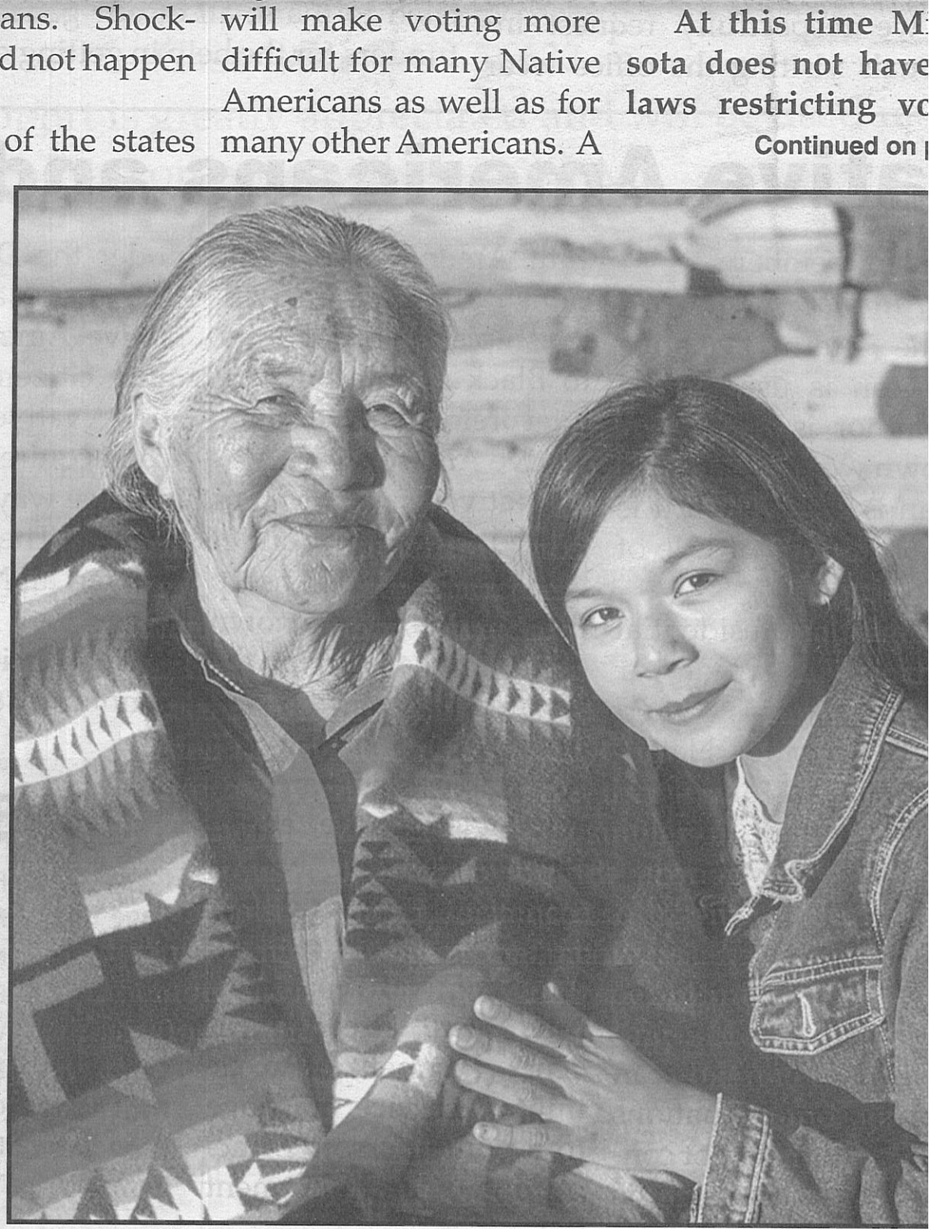
At first, many states did not allow Native Americans to vote. Over the years, individual legislatures began passing laws granting this right. New Mexico was the last state to pass a law guaranteeing the vote to Native Americans. Shockingly, this did not happen until 1962.

In some of the states that recognized the right of Native Americans to vote, there were still barriers to their actual voting: literacy tests and poll taxes, both of which were outlawed decades ago. There has also been a history of voter intimidation in some states. These problems are identical to those faced by Black voters.

Today, Native Americans have the same right to vote as any other Americans. But laws restricting voting, such as requirements that voters show identification listing their street address, will make voting more difficult for many Native Americans as well as for many other Americans. A particular problem f Native American po tion is that such law quire that street add es, rather than post boxes, be shown o identification docu and houses on res tions do not always street addresses.

At this time M sota does not have laws restricting vo

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ANISHINABE LEGAL SERVICES

Native Americans and the Vote

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However, the issue has arisen in neighboring North Dakota in the past few years.

North Dakota does not have voter registration. Voters simply show identification listing their addresses and birth dates. For voters without identification, there were two "fail-safe" options: a poll worker who personally knew the voter could vouch for the voter, or the voter could sign an affidavit stating that he/she is authorized to vote in that precinct.

In 2013 and 2015, North Dakota passed laws reducing the number of acceptable forms of identification and eliminating the fail-safe options. In 2014, Navy veteran Richard Brakebill, a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe, was not allowed to vote because the identification he offered did not meet the new requirements, although it would have been perfectly acceptable under the old law. He and six other tribal members sued the ND Secretary of State in federal court in January 2016. They argued that Native Americans were disproportionately affected by the new law because many tribal members whose poverty and even homelessness, or whose homes did not have addresses, made it extremely difficult for them to get identification that met the new law's restrictive requirements. They also argued that there was no compelling state interest that made the new restrictions necessary, since voter fraud was rare.

That August, the U.S. District Judge ruled in their favor, and the 2016 election was conducted under the more liberal rules; however, North Dakota passed yet another law dealing with acceptable voter identification. Brakebill and his co-plaintiffs sued again, and the U.S. District Judge again ruled for them. The Secretary of State appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals, which allowed the June primary to be held under the pre-2013 law but then "stayed," or halted enforcement of the Judge's order. The Court of Appeals gave two reasons: that people might unintentionally vote in the wrong precinct, and that there could be voter fraud by people who had post office boxes in precincts where they did not live.

The ruling of the Court of Appeals meant that the 2016 election would be conducted under the new law. Brakebill and his co-plaintiffs then appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, asking it to vacate (cancel) the ruling of the Court of Appeals. Ultimately, the two sides reached agreement and the case was settled. The State of North Dakota agreed to provide free photo IDs to all reservation residents, and to allow them to point out their homes on maps at the polling places in order to prove that they lived in the precinct where they were voting.

The controversy over the right of Native Americans to vote is long over. However, a number of state legislatures are now passing laws that restrict the ability of many of their citizens to vote, and many Native Americans will continue to be affected by those laws.



Evictions and Housing Assistance

By: Heather Labat
Staff Attorney

On June 29, 2021, the Legislature enacted the Eviction Moratorium Phaseout, which voids Governor Walz's previously issued executive orders that suspended evictions, writs of recovery, and lease terminations during the peacetime emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Governor's executive orders related to evictions were sometimes referred to as the "eviction moratorium" or the "eviction ban." The new law voiding the executive orders went into effect on June 30, 2021. The new law creates timelines that allow for different types of lease terminations and evictions to move forward. The new law also protects certain nonpayment of rent evictions for those renters who have a pending application for emergency rental assistance.

If you are behind on rent or utility bills and you're afraid your landlord will file an eviction case against you now that the eviction ban has ended, please call 2-1-1 or check out RentHelpMN.org to find out if you're eligible for the statewide COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Leech Lake, White Earth and Red Lake Tribes are also providing emergency rental assistance for eligible members. **See flyer for more details.**

It's important to seek assistance through the State or Tribal programs immediately because your landlord could file an eviction against you for nonpayment of rent if you don't have proof that you have applied for assistance or if you refuse to apply. Once you have applied for assistance, you're protected from eviction for nonpayment of rent while your application is pending. This protection lasts until June 1, 2022. Applying for assistance is an essential step to protect yourself from eviction for nonpayment of rent; please d wait to apply!



Beginning on 30, 2021, some ten will be subject to terminations, lease renewals and/or tion. Landlords ma sue lease terminatio refuse to renew a lea evict a tenant if a te (1) seriously endar

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Minding our Mental Health

By: David Eischens
Paralegal

Mental Health is vital to living in peace with not only yourself but to those around you. Our mental health can affect how we interact with others, or how others interact with us. It is all too common for individuals living with mental illness to be labeled as crazy, nuts, or a lunatic. We are looked at as broken and to some unfixable. It is much easier to label someone in a negative way, saying, "oh she/he is just crazy", or, "he/she just cries about anything and everything" than it is to sit down with that person, and just listen to what they have to say. Whether it sounds "crazy" to you or not, we must be able to separate that stigma that people are simply crazy or just wanting attention. Mental illness is not something to joke about. It is a very difficult life to live if it is not treated or it is left to "work-itself-out"! Mental illness does not go away on its own, but it is treatable!

Having a mental illness is not always something people can see: some think that because individuals who have mental illness impairments are not in a wheelchair or other assisted living devices, that they are not handicapped or don't have a disability. That is just not true.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) webinar statistics on Youth M Health:

- 1 in 5 youth live a mental illness. (20 the population).
- 7 out of 10 are i juvenile justice syste
- 6 out of 10 ar receiving any treat services.
- 5 out of 10 ag and older leave s before graduating c ceiving a GED.

The webinar goes on to say that:

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ANISHINABE LEGAL SERVICES

Minding our Mental Health

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• 4 out of 10 adults live with a serious mental illness that is not treated.

• 8 out of 10 are not in the workforce!

• 1 out of every 4 are in the criminal justice system.

Some symptoms of mental illness are:

• Periods of time feeling sad, irritable, changes in mood, appetite, sleep, and energy levels indicate Major Depression.

• Pounding heart, dizzy, shortness of breath, fatigue, and edginess are signs of Anxiety Disorder.

• Depression with mania (Risky behaviors, racing thoughts), grandiose ideas, is a sign of Bipolar Disorder, Eating Disorder, and Borderline Personality Disorder.

Although we should never ever try to self-diagnose ourselves, or anyone else for that matter, learn the signs and symptoms of mental illness so that you are able to better serve or help others who are living with mental illness. If you or someone you know is experiencing any of these symptoms, please seek help with someone from a crisis line or other mental health professionals.

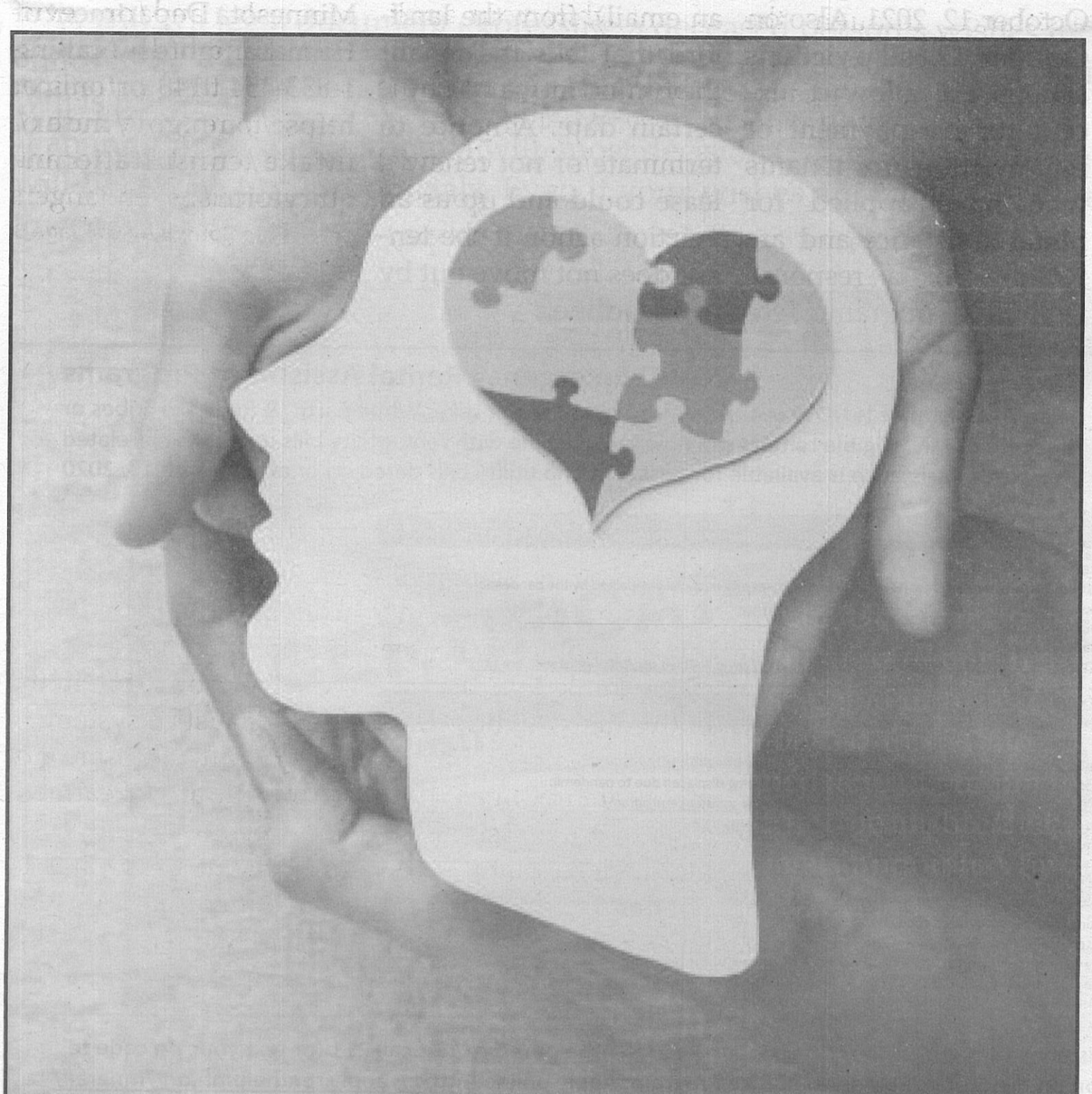
Mental illness can be anywhere from mild, to moderate, to severe. Mental illness is not caused by the person living with it, nor their family. Causes of mental illness are very complex and can come from genetics, environment, negative life experiences, chemical exposure, and brain structure.

With that being said, mental illness is not the end of our days! It could be just the beginning if we address it in a positive manner rather than continue looking at mental illness as something bad and needed to be hid from everyone and anyone. I am not saying that we must give up our own sanity and safety to help those living with mental illness, but what I am saying is that we as a community must include and accept individuals no matter what our prejudices are.

Instead of using negative language towards people living with mental illness, let's change the narrative, the language of how we address those individuals on a daily basis. We can begin by using respectful language that is accurate and precise, also known as "people first" language, things such as "A person living with schizophrenia", rather than the normal language of "A person suffering from mental illness". Or, "people experiencing mental illness". People who are living with a mental illness are often times nonviolent, generous, courageous, determined and inspirational.

If you know someone who is experiencing mental health symptoms, kindly ask them if there is anything that you can do to help. The more that we all learn to recognize the signs and symptoms, the better we can ensure they get the proper help the person needs and deserves.

For information regarding mental health illness and awareness, please go to the National Institute of Mental Health @ NIMH.gov, or National Alliance on Mental Illness @ NAMI.org.



Evictions & Housing Assistance

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others; (2) significantly damages property; and/or (3) violates Minnesota Statutes section 504B.171, subdivision 1 (allows certain illegal activities on premises, such as controlled substances, prostitution, illegal use/possession of firearms, or stolen property). Landlords can also terminate a lease for a material violation of the lease other than nonpayment of rent.

It's important to know that tenants who are eligible for emergency rental assistance but refuse to apply, refuse to give their landlord information they need to apply on the tenant's behalf, or refuse to provide proof the tenant applied for assistance are also subject to eviction on June 30, 2021. However, all nonpayment of rent evictions require the 15-day notice until October 12, 2021.

On July 14, 2021, eviction actions can be filed in court for material violations of a lease, except for nonpayment of rent cases.

On August 13, 2021, a landlord may terminate or not renew a lease for tenants with outstanding rent who are not eligible for emergency rental assistance.

On September 12, 2021, eviction actions for nonpayment of rent for tenants who are ineligible for rental assistance and have outstanding rent can be filed in court. These types of eviction actions require a 15-day notice.

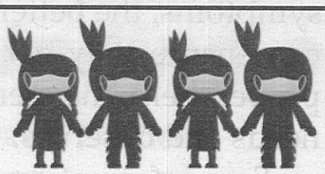
On October 12, 2021, a landlord can end a lease for any legal reason, with appropriate notice. And as mentioned already, a landlord is no longer required to give a tenant the 15-day notice for nonpayment of rent beginning October 12, 2021. Also on October 12, all evictions actions are allowed, except for nonpayment of rent evictions for tenants who have applied for rental assistance and are waiting for a response from the program. Tenants with pending rental assistance applications are protected until June 1, 2022.

By June 1, 2022, all evictions actions will be allowed, without exception.

So what's the difference between a notice of termination or non-renewal and eviction? An eviction action is a court process filed by a landlord where the tenant will receive paperwork from the court, which includes a court case number and a hearing date and time. The landlord must serve eviction court papers to the tenant at least 7 days before the hearing. A notice of termination or non-renewal of a lease doesn't involve the courts. It's a piece of paper (or maybe an email), from the landlord that tells the tenant they must move out by a certain date. A notice to terminate or not renew a lease could end up as an eviction action if the tenant does not move out by the deadline.

Please contact our fice or any legal serv office if you have qu tions related to evict or lease termination. you can submit questi via Live Chat: https: direct.lc.chat/7460061 a program offered LawHelpMN.org. Ho Line also has a tenant l tline as well and you c reach them at: 866-8 3546.

Finally, if you belie your landlord is discri nating against you or l retaliated against you cause of your protect status (race, color, cre religion, national orig sex, marital status, d ability, public assistan sexual orientation, g der identity, or fami status) you can rep this discrimination to t Minnesota Department Human Rights by calli 1-833-454-0148 or onli https://mn.gov/mdh intake/consultation quiryform/.



COVID Emergency Rental Assistance Programs

Rental assistance is NOW available through the Leech Lake, White Earth, & Red Lake Tribes or the State of MN. Eligible renters can now receive help with rent, utility bills and housing related costs. Assistance is available for past rent and utility bills dated on or **after March 13, 2020**

LEECH LAKE ELIGIBILITY

- Current renter with formal rental agreement/lease
- Total family income of less than 80% of Median area income. Have past due expenses and financially impacted by the pandemic
- Member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribes
- Employee of LLBO, LLHA, LLG or Bug-o-nay-Ge-Shig School.
- Tenant of LLHA or client of SS or similar service with LLBO
- Contact LL Tribal Assistance at (218)335-3626, (218)335-3762 or apply online https://www.llojibwe.org/tribalassistance.era.htm

RED LAKE ELIGIBILITY

- Red Lake Tribal Member
- Must be renting a residential dwelling on or off the reservation
- Related expenses such as relocation costs, rental fees, lodging/uhaul expenses from being displaced due to pandemic
- Applications ONLINE ONLY https://www.redlakenation.org/covid-19-emergency-rental-assistance-program/
- Any questions or assistance needed call 833-684-1899 or email rlera@redlakenation.org.
- Bemidji residents may call Oshkiimaajitahdah at 218-444-2883

WHITE EARTH ELIGIBILITY

- Tribal member or descendant of any federally recognized tribe
- Owe or behind on rental or utility payments from 3/13/20
- Outstanding related expenses due to unemployment, illness, or another issue as a result of the pandemic
- For more info contact White Earth Homeless Program (218) 936-3212 or apply online https://whiteearth.com/news/255/white_earth_coronavirus_relief_program_application
- Application available to pick up outside Homeless Program or at Dreamcatcher Housing in Ogema

Don't qualify for Rental Assistance through a tribe? Check out https://renthelpmn/org/, or call 211 (or text your zip code to 898-211) for more information on the State's Rental Assistance Program. Apply online: https://apply.renthelpmn.org/mnera#/

Why YOU should be planning ahead!

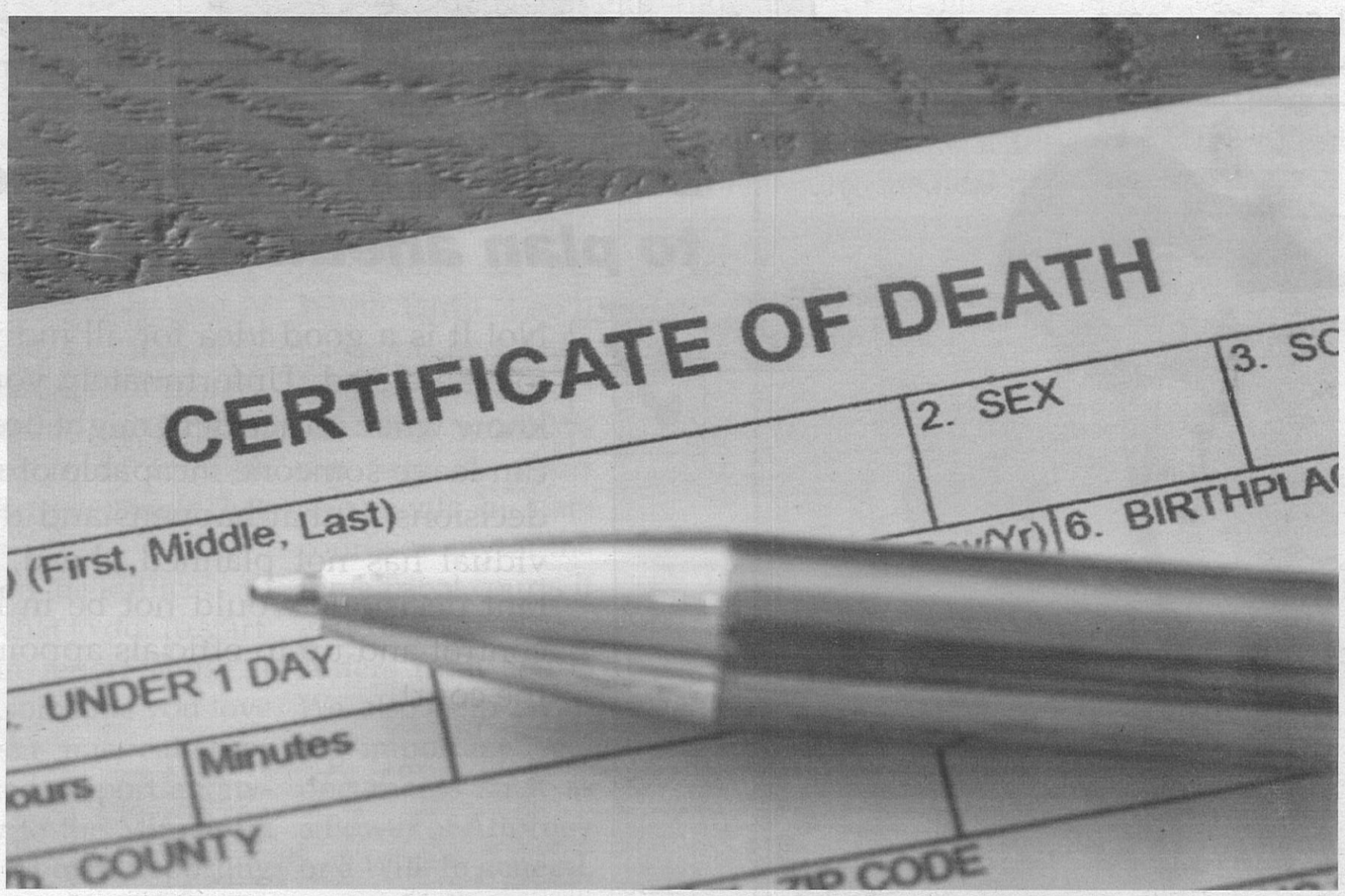
By: Megan Carmichael
Former Staff Attorney

Will a …	Will	Healthcare Directive	Power of Attorney
Decreases potential for family conflict?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Take the burden off of family	Yes	Yes	Yes
Help you and your family prepare financially?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Give you more control?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ease the Transition?	Yes	Yes	Yes

What is a will?

A will is a legal document expressing a deceased person's wishes including the care of minor children as well as distributing assets left in your name. Once an individual passes away, the will is presented to the court and the court authorizes and oversees the distribution of property. If an individual dies without a will, most decisions regarding the estate and any minor children will be left up to court officials. Even if your wishes are known by others, they may not be followed.

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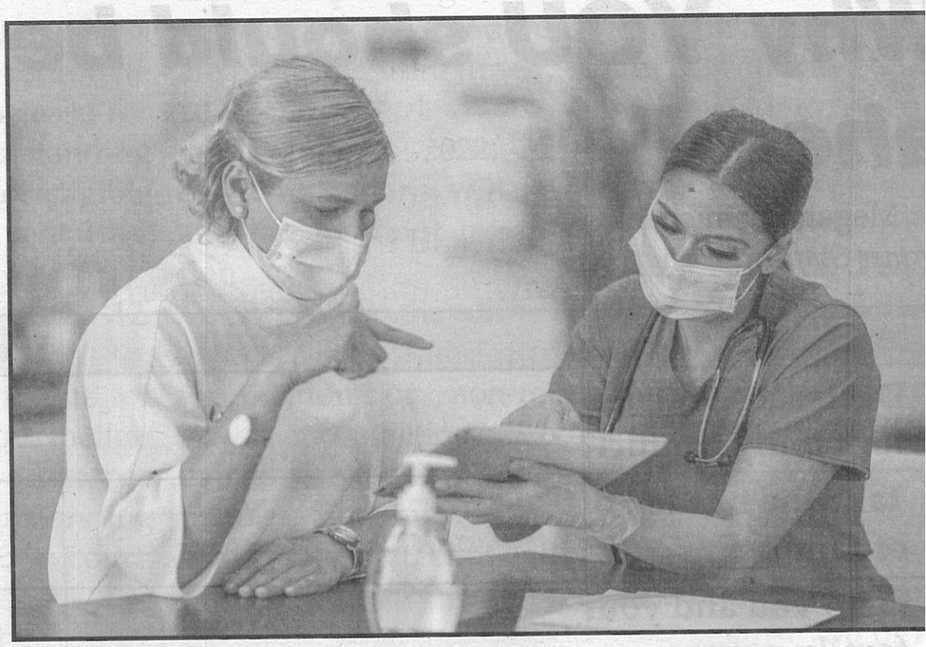


Why YOU should be planning ahead!

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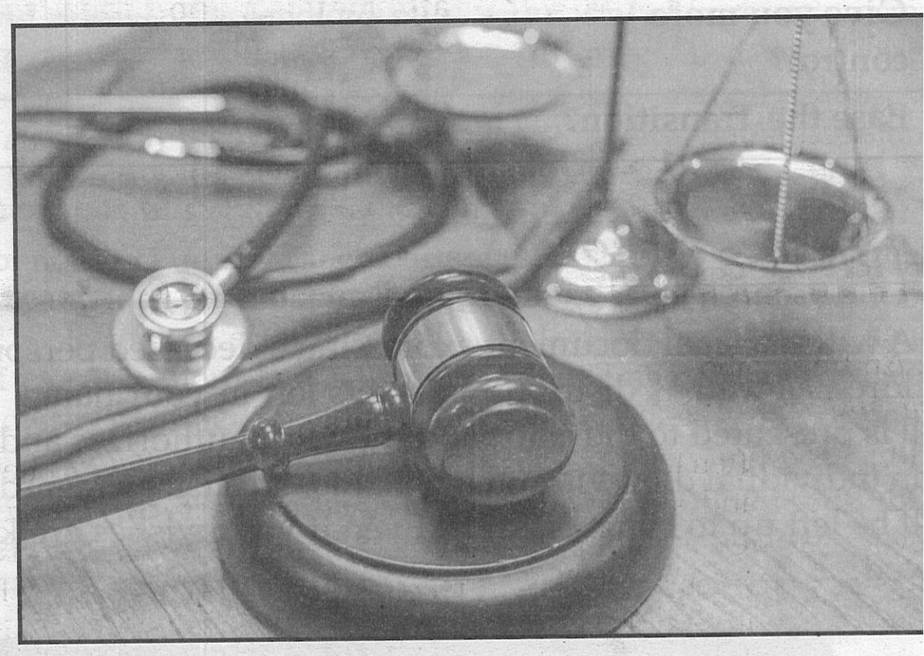
What is a healthcare directive?

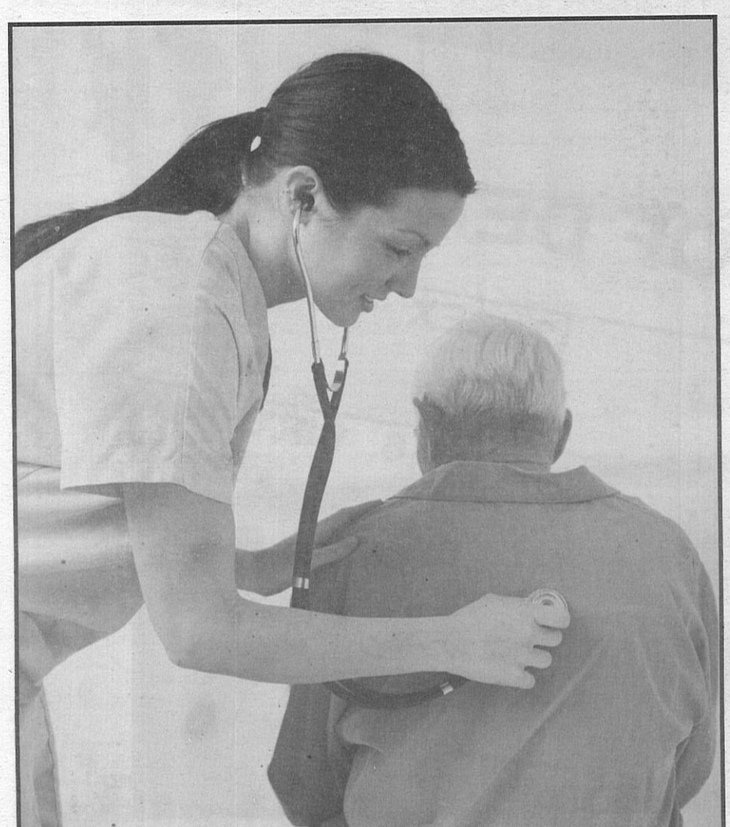
A healthcare directive, otherwise known as an advanced directive or living will, is a legal document that expresses the medical wishes of an individual who can no longer make those decisions on their own. It lets your loved ones and healthcare professionals know what kind of care you want and helps guide them to make clear decisions.



What is a power of attorney?

A power of attorney is a legal document granting a person of choice legal authority to make decisions about the person's finances or property. It can be used as a tool for planning for future incapacity including dementia, traumatic brain injury, or some other impairment.





Do only the elderly need to plan ahead?

✓ No! It is a good idea for all individua to plan-ahead. Unfortunately, you nev know when an accident might occur th can leave someone incapable of maki decisions. If that happens and the in vidual has not planned ahead, impo tant decisions would not be in his/h control and up to officials appointed the court.

ANISHINABE LEGAL SERVICES

Why YOU should be planning ahead!

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For example…

- **a will is a good idea for:**
  - a parent to minor children who may want to dictate who will care for their children if something happened.
  - An individual who doesn't have a spouse or children so someone knows who should inherit your belongings.
  - Anyone who owns property or has personal belongings.
- **A healthcare directive is a good idea for. . .**
  - a young married couple who hasn't had the conversation about what extraordinary circumstances should be taken if something were to happen
- a widow/er who would like to give instructions if they were ever unable to make medical decisions.
- anyone who wants the ability to make their own medical decisions if something were to happen.
- **A power of attorney is a good idea for. . .**
  - Anyone who has bills, a bank account, stocks, savings, or any assets.

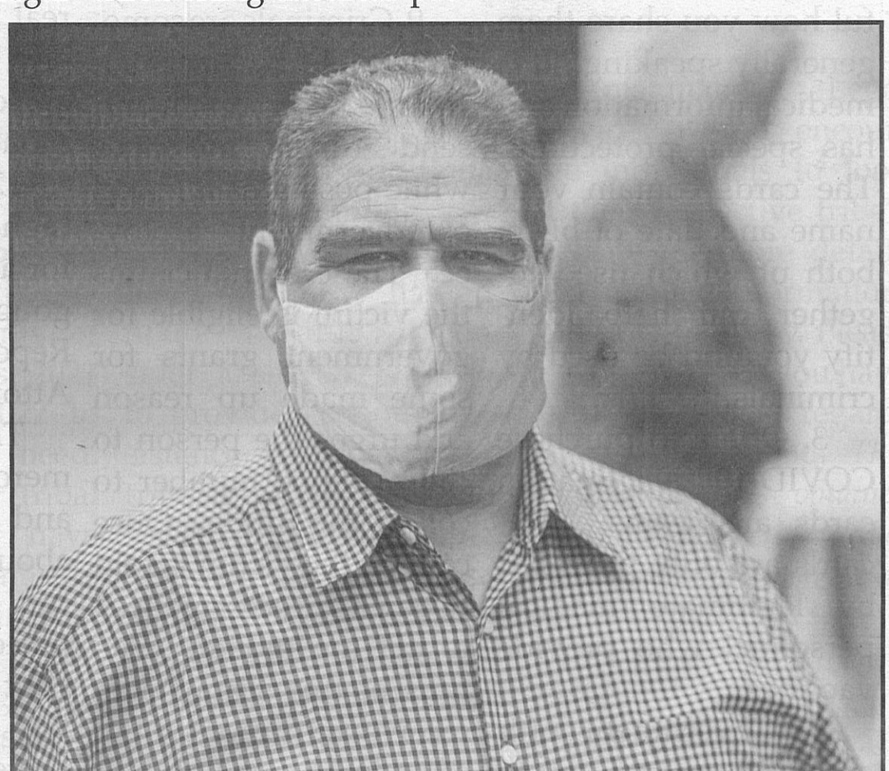
Elder Services Available at Anishinabe Legal Services

By: Andrea Szabo
Staff Attorney

Elders are often targeted for abuse and scams. They can cover a wide range of activities from someone withdrawing money you did not approve, to physical neglect or harm; and the actors range too - from close relatives to complete strangers on the other side of the world! In Minnesota, the Commerce Department estimates ***90% of financial fraud towards elders is from people they know!***[1]

It can be difficult to know what to do. To start, you can report abuse if you or someone you love has been mistreated or neglected. Report anonymously to the Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center at 844-880-1574. They're open 24hrs a day, 7 days a week. For financial scams, you can report anonymously at the center just listed, or contact MN Commerce Department at 800-657-3602.

At Anishinabe Legal Services we offer free legal services to eligible individuals in the White Earth, Leech Lake, or Red Lake Nations and surrounding areas! We can help file court documents in state courts or any of the three tribal courts if you or a loved one suffers from abuse. We also help creating important legal documents such as a Power of Attorney or a Will. In general, our guidelines state you must be 60 or over to help with Health Care Directives, Power of Attorneys, or Wills, but we also offer these services if you're disabled, terminally ill, or about to undergo a life-threatening medical procedure. **Call today to do an intake and find out if you're eligible, 218-335-2223 or 800-422-1335.**



1. https://mn.gov/commerce-stat/pdfs/senior-toolkit-accordion-web.pdf

Beware of Scams: Post COVID-19

By: Valerie Field
Staff Attorney

Even though conditions are improving, there are still numerous scams circulating in general, and related to COVID – 19, that people need to educate themselves about what to avoid. Scammers use fear, pressure, habit, promises of fake money and people's desires to be helpful to get both money and information about their victims.

Here are a few things to avoid in order to lower the chance of being victimized by a scam.

1. Be cautious of COVID-19 survey scams. Do not give out personal, medical or financial information in exchange for money or gifts or if you otherwise are unsure regarding why someone is requesting such information.

2. Do not share your vaccination record cards on social media. Be careful how you share them generally speaking. It is medical information and has special protections. The cards contain your name and date of birth, both of which used together can help identify you and be used by criminals.

3. Offers to purchase COVID-19 vaccination cards are scams. The cards are only provided by legitimate medical personnel who provide vaccines.

4. Government officials will not call you to obtain personal information in order to receive the vaccine. This includes Medicare. If you get a call, e-mail or text requesting information be provided, it is likely a scam. Contact your medical provider or the government agency to verify before giving out any information.

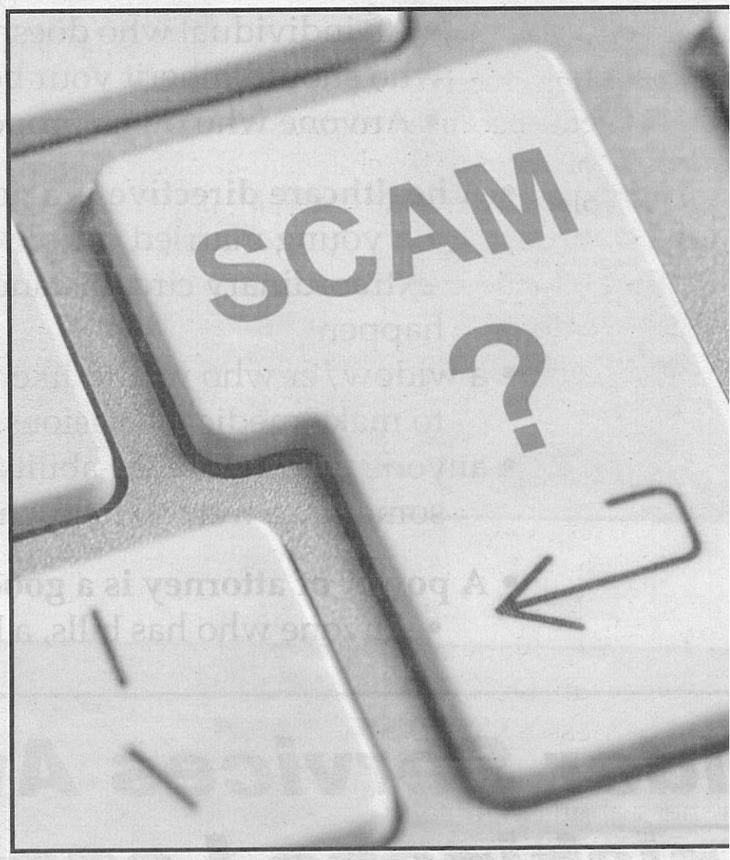
5. Do not respond to, or open hyperlinks in text messages from unknown individuals.

6. Ignore offers or advertisements for COVID-19 tests online. Make sure any location given is an official testing site.

7. Scammers are pretending to be COVID-19 contact tracers. Legitimate tracers will not ask for Medicare number, financial information, offer to set up a test or collect payment.

8. If you receive suspicious calls, hang up immediately.

9. Criminals are sometimes able to hack social media accounts and send direct messages while posing as a friend or government employee. The criminal claims the victim is eligible for government grants for some made up reason and urges the person to call a phone number to collect the funds. Once calling, the victim is told to pay a "processing fee" to get the money. Victims of this scam never receive any money but often large sums of their money are stolen.



10. Another scam is offering people a $200 Medicare prescription care card. It does not currently exist.

11. There are charity scams anytime there are disasters. Criminals also claim to be from real charities. Research any charity where you are considering offering money.

12. Raising prices high for items needed for a crisis is called price gouging and it's illegal. Report it to your state's Attorney General.

There are also numerous rumors, myths and conspiracy theories about COVID-19. They can be frightening and misleading and can prevent people from receiving care they need to protect themselves. Seek information from tiple sources, inclu official government sites.

Anyone can bec a victim of a scam this happens to you port the scam to law forcement. Do not ashamed about b a victim of a scam. a crime like any crime and not the tim's fault.

Anishinabe Legal vices will help an questions regar scams if requested. phone number is 1 422-1335.

Information for article was obtained line at www.usa. covid-scams and w mncourt.gov

ANISHINABE LEGAL SERVICES

Childhood Disability Benefits

By: Rita Ostman
Paralegal

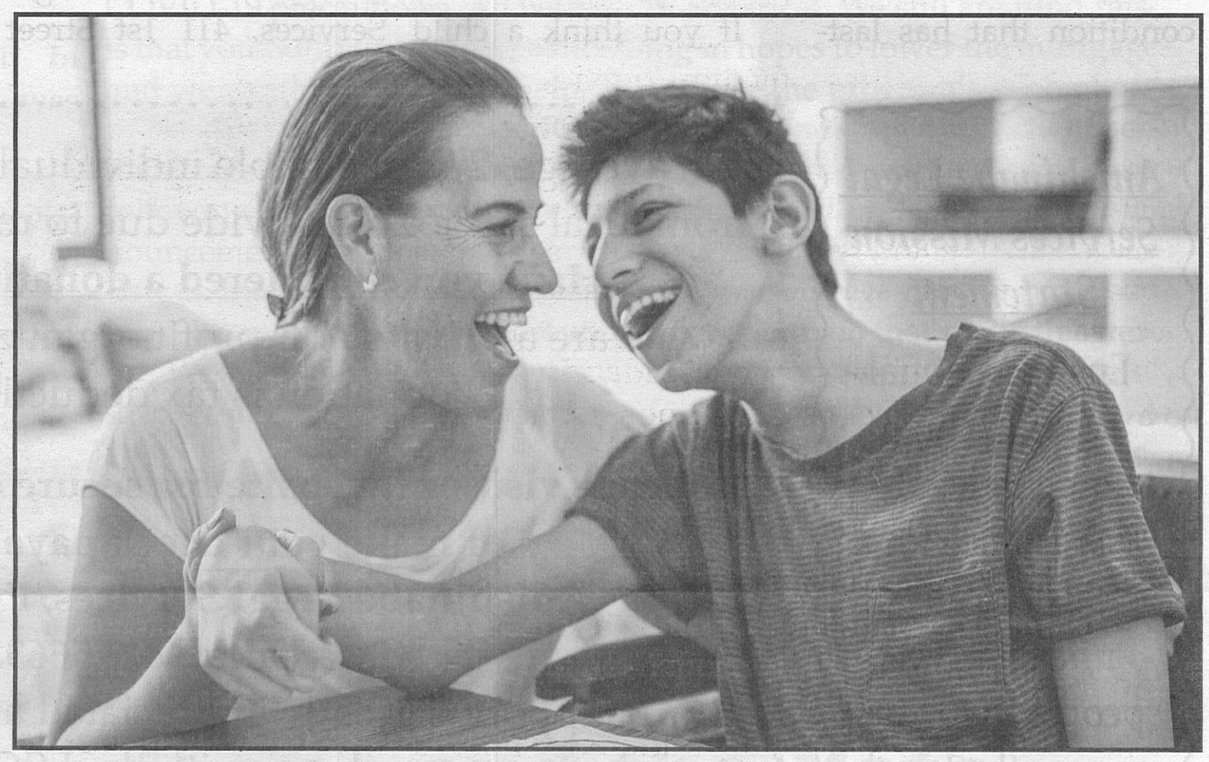
Every year, about 4.4 million children receive monthly benefits because one or both of their parents are disabled, retired, or deceased. When a parent becomes disabled or dies, Social Security benefits help to stabilize the family's financial situation in an otherwise turbulent time.

Earlier this year, National Birth Defects Prevention Month in January, and National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March,both raised awareness about medical conditions in children. Many families with children who have birth defects or developmental disabilities need medical and financial help. This is where Social Security's commitment to helping children and families is most evident.

The Social Security Administration pays benefits through disability insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs. These disability programs provides vital income for disabled children, including people disabled since childhood.

To qualify for chil-

Continued on page 12



Tribes and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) payments to members/increased tribal programming

By: Chari LaDuke Clark
Admin. Director

At the time of this writing, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe has approved payment to adult tribal members under funding from the first portion of the American Rescue Plan Act. The program established by the LLBO will distribute payments of $1375 in August 2021 and August 2022 to individuals in need. Enrolled minor tribal members will have $500 automatically directed to their trust fund accounts. The ARPA funding will also increase services across the reservation to the elderly, disabled, veterans, and additional tribal programming.



The White Earth Band of Ojibwe has announced that it will consider a similar proposal to provide economic assistance to their adult tribal members at its' July 16, 2021 special meeting. The funding proposal includes approximately $3200 for individuals and up to $30,000 for small business owners.

Anishinabe Legal Services would encourage individuals to look at their respective tribe's website for more details and updated information, and how to apply. Please feel free to call if you have legal questions regarding these payments *This information was obtained from the respective tribal websites and/or social media page.*

Childhood disability benefits

Continued from page 11

dren's benefits under these programs, the applicant must be the child of a parent entitled to benefits and meet Social Security's strict definition of disability. A person is disabled under the Social Security Act if he or she cannot work due to a severe medical condition that has lasted, or is expected to last, at least one year or result in death.

The SSI program provides payments to blind or disabled children who live in households with low income and limited resources if they meet our strict definition of disability.

If you think a child you know is eligible for benefits contact our office. We have trained professionals who work with the Social Security Administration to help you through the process from initial application all the way to appeals hearing. To reach our office: Anishinabe Legal Services, 411 1st Street NW/PO Box 157, Ca Lake, MN 56633 and phone at 218-335-2223

Information obtain from: May 26, 2016 u dated March 2021

By Jim Borland, Assistu Deputy Commissior Communications

Anishinabe Legal Services Mission Statement

Ensuring equal access to high quality legal assistance for historically under-served people living on or near the Leech Lake, Red Lake, and White Earth Tribal Lands and to protect legal rights and Tribal Sovereignty.

On average, 2/3 of eligible individuals are turned away from legal services statewide due to resource limitations

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