

Things You can Do

- If you know of an address that you think is a hoarding situation you can call the Saginaw County 9-1-1 Central Dispatch (nonemergency) number at (989) 797-4580 to report the address of the suspected hoarding. You can do this anonymously if you want.

Saginaw County Central Dispatch (nonemergency) 9-1-1 will conduct a site visit in order to do a wellbeing check and seek confirmation of hoarding.

- If you know the person, and feel comfortable, encourage them to seek help – there is an effective mental health treatment for hoarding disorder.
- If you know the person, and feel comfortable, encourage them to reduce risk by moving clutter away from heat sources or electrical outlets to reduce the potential for a fire and encourage them to create clear pathways in the home to minimize trips and falls.
- Be positive, patient, caring and supportive with the person.

- People whose possessions fill their homes and their lives often feel alone.
- It can be very worrisome and stressful to be aware of the hoarding behavior of someone you know and not know what to do about it.
- Hoarding disorder is difficult to understand, and impacts not just the person who has the disorder, but everyone involved in their life and those who live near them.
- Help is available.
- There is hope – people can recover from hoarding disorder.



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hoardingtaskforcesaginaw.org

Hoarding Disorder

Information for Families, Friends & Neighbors

- **To find out about getting help for someone with hoarding disorder call: (989) 498-2266**
- **To get more information about hoarding disorder, visit the Saginaw Hoarding Task Force Website**
- **To request a law enforcement wellbeing check call: (989) 797-4580**



What is Hoarding Disorder (HD)?

HD is the excessive accumulation of items along with the inability to discard them even if they appear useless because of a strong perceived need to save items and/or distress associated with discarding.

Hoarding results in the accumulation of a large number of possessions that congest and clutter living areas of the home or workplace making them unusable and creating health and safety hazards.

HD can affect anyone, regardless of age, sex, or economic status.

HD usually starts in early adolescence, around age 13 or 14, and tends to worsen with age.



The kitchen in a hoarded home

Signs & Symptoms of HD

- There are stacks of newspapers, magazines, or junk mail in the home.
- Most surfaces in the home such as countertops, sinks, stoves, and desks are piled with items. Clutter may be moved to the yard, garage, or vehicles when there is no more room inside the home.
- Pathways and stairways are cluttered and impassible, or are nearly impassible.
- Rooms cannot be used for their intended purpose due to the clutter.
- The person is unable to throw things away and accumulates unnecessary items like trash.
- The person has a hard time managing daily activities, making decisions, and organizing items.
- The person refuses to let visitors into the home due to shame or embarrassment.
- The person has more than the typical number of companion animals and is unable to provide even minimal standards of nutrition, sanitation, shelter and veterinary care. There may be a strong smell of ammonia, and floors may be covered with dried feces and urine.

Getting Help

Contact the Saginaw 9-1-1 Central Dispatch (nonemergency) system at (989) 797-4580.

If the person has Medicaid or Healthy Michigan Plan coverage, they may be eligible for mental health treatment.

Call the Saginaw Community Care HUB (989) 498-2266 to make a referral for mental health treatment and other related services.

If the person does not agree to treatment initially, they might agree to the involvement of a community health worker to assist them in their home in reducing health and safety risks.

Services can be offered again at a later time and, if housing code enforcement or landlord concerns have been raised, the person may be more motivated to get treatment if their home is at risk for a legal citation.

The Saginaw Community Care HUB may be able to help find sources of funding for persons who do have coverage for treatment.