

Pathways to Justice: *Get the Facts*

REPORTING ABUSE: A Fact Sheet for Self Advocates



Molly Kennedy and Kecia Weller are two strong self-advocates that want you to know that abuse is not ok. EVER. View their video "Abuse of People with Disabilities: A Silent Epidemic" ([youtube.com/watch?v=yhLsATwOOo4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yhLsATwOOo4))



National Center on
Criminal Justice & Disability

For more information, visit our
website at:

www.thearc.org/NCCJD

Contact us:

Phone: 202.433.5255

Toll free: 800.433.5255

Email: NCCJInfo@thearc.org



facebook.com/NCCJD

FACTS

- Abuse happens to to anyone.
- An abuser can be stranger, but usually is someone you know.
- **4 out of 10** people with developmental disabilities experience some type of abuse.¹
- People with disabilities are less likely to report abuse.

WHAT IS ABUSE?

- Abuse is **WRONG!**
- Abuse is when someone hurts or harms another person on purpose.
- There are many types of abuse:
 - Physical:** hurts your body on purpose.
 - Sexual:** makes you do sexual things when you do not want to.
 - Emotional:** says things that make you feel bad about yourself.
 - Financial:** takes your money or credit card and uses without your OK.
 - Intimidation:** acts in a way that causes fear or harm to you.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- Be safe from harm
- Report abuse (i.e. teacher, coach, boss, 911)
- Confront your abuser
- Get help from a trusted person (i.e. caregiver, family member, friend)

REMEMBER

- Call 911 if you are in danger and need help right away.
- You should tell someone even if you are not sure it is abuse.
- Abuse is never your fault.
- Abuse is not just wrong, its a crime too.

ABUSE IS NEVER OK!

The **Board**  Resource Center

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¹ Petersilia, Joan. *Invisible Victims: Violence against Persons with Developmental Disabilities*. Chicago: Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities of the American Bar Association, 2000. Print.