

Victims' Issues Series

Abuse of People with Disabilities *A Silent Epidemic*



Kecia Weller
Molly Kennedy

Welcome!

- First time using webex?
 - Ask questions in the **Chat** or **Q&A** box.
 - If you want to keep your question private -
 1. Type “**PRIVATE**” in the **Q&A** box.
 2. Send your question to “**HOST**” in the **Chat Box**.
- 3. This webinar will be **recorded** and **saved** on the NCCJD website.
- 4. Keep this in mind when sharing personal information.

Polling Question

What is abuse?

Polling Question

**Who should you tell
if you see abuse?**

Polling Question

Which of the following is true:

Molly Kennedy



Why I am involved with reducing abuse

- It's about human rights
- I want to eliminate abuse to people like me

Kecia Weller



Why Kecia is involved with reducing abuse

- Empower with knowledge
- More people know what abuse is
- Know how to report abuse



- Raise awareness about how often abuse happens
- Go over different types of abuse
- Learn that it is OK to report abuse

Crimes against people with disabilities



- Happens twice as often as crimes against non disabled people
- People with disabilities are less likely to report abuse
- Violent crimes do not get investigated enough



National Center on
Criminal Justice & Disability

*2012 Bureau of Justice Statistics report on Crimes Against Persons with Disabilities

Achieve with us.®



People with developmental disabilities are more likely to be abused

Because

- Can be segregated from others
- Reinforced for being compliant
- Don't know how to protect themselves
- Don't know enough about personal safety or their rights

Public Service Message

Abuse of persons with disabilities
is a SILENT epidemic



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4 out of 10 experience some type of abuse



70%

- Crimes are not reported to police -
Of those reported, about 15% get action



- People with disabilities are victimized repeatedly

Abusers see people as vulnerable

Abusers believe they will not be punished

90
%
66
%

- Abusers know their victims
 - People who have regular contact with victim
- Sexually abused females never reported
 - Lack of information about who to tell
 - When reported, **55% were not believed**

Abuse and Neglect of People with Development Disabilities:
Dr. D Roof/Esser

Intimidation Abuse

When someone acts in a way that causes fear or harm

Sometimes people feel -



• get in trouble

• about it, they might be hurt

• something will be taken away

• physical harm

Physical Abuse

When someone uses their body or object to hurt you

What to look for -



in bones

't be explained

Sexual Abuse

When someone forces a person to take part in sexual activity against their will

Evidence of abuse can include

- Bruises, scars, or pain in sexual body areas
- Sexually transmitted disease
- Torn, stained underwear
- Fear, depression or other new behaviors



Financial Abuse

When someone takes advantage of your money



- Stealing your money
- Being forced to use your ATM card
- Being forced to buy a gift for someone
- Being forced to lend money

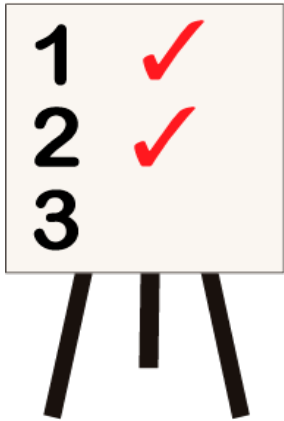
Report abuse!

It will not stop, if you do not report



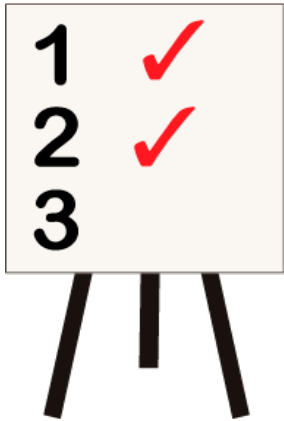
- You can report or “Tell” even if you are not sure
- Report to:
 - People you trust
 - Authorities like police, adult protective services

PLAN



- Write a Blog
Abuse against people with disabilities
- Train police, fire, emergency service people
How to interact with people with disabilities
- Speak about the abuse prevention video
CA State Council/Self Advocates Committee
Regional Advocacy Board

PLAN



- Send emails about the abuse video
Professional contacts, advocacy leaders
- Share abuse video with national network
Facebook and other social media
- Write letters to California legislators
Share my thoughts about new laws for abusers

Self-Advocates



- If you experienced abuse - **report it!**
- Educate your friends about types of abuse
- At meetings, talk about how to report abuse
- Share the Arc Fact Sheet with advocacy groups

Professionals



- Listen and observe!
- Share the abuse video with advocacy groups
- Learn how to support a person you think may have been abused

If you or someone you know are abused:

- REPORT
- Call 911 if it is an emergency
- Other resources:

—1-800-422-4453

— <http://www.thearc.org/NCCJD/about/request-assistance>

- Questions?

Contact us at:

NCCJDinfo@thearc.org