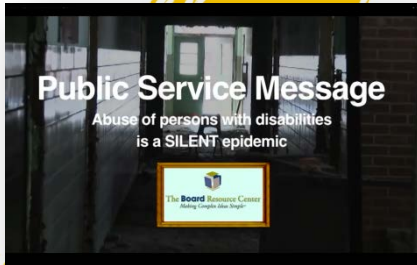


Criminal Justice Facts

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](#)"*

4 out of every 10 people with disabilities experience some type of abuse.



FACTS

- Abuse happens to many self-advocates.
- People with disabilities are the least likely to report crimes to the police
- More than 90% of people (both male and female) with developmental disabilities will experience sexual abuse at some point in their lives.
- 90% of assailants know their victims.

IDENTIFYING ABUSE

- **Listen.**
- **Observe.**
- **Take complaints seriously.**

There are many types of abuse:

- **Physical:** when someone hurts your body (bruises, burns, rashes, scrapes)
- **Sexual:** when someone hurts or touches your sexual body parts and you do not want them to.
- **Psychological:** when someone says things that make you feel worthless.
- **Financial:** when someone takes your money, property, or assets without talking to you first.
- **Domestic:** when one person in an intimate relationship or marriage tries to control the other person.

REPORTING:

You can "Tell" even if you are not sure!

- Do not be **intimidated**. You will not get in trouble and it is not your fault.

Report to:

- People you trust like a caregiver or family member.
- Someone you are not depending on like a teacher, a coach, or a boss at work.
- The authorities like a police officer or a caseworker.

REMEMBER

- Abuse is never your fault!
- You should tell someone even if you are not sure if it is abuse.
- **ABUSE IS NEVER OK!**