

# 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=yhLsATw0o4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yhLsATw0o4))



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### FACTS

- Abuse can happen 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.<sup>1</sup>
- 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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<sup>1</sup> Petersilia, Joan. *Invisible Victims: Violence against Persons with Developmental Disabilities*. Chicago: Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities of the American Bar Association, 2000. Print.

# *Reporting Abuse: A Fact Sheet for Self Advocates*

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