



DISABILITY SAFETY TOOLKIT: SAFETY TIPS FOR SELF ADVOCATES

ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN SCHOOLS, INSTITUTIONS, AND GROUP HOMES

Sometimes bad things like abuse and neglect can happen in places other than homes. It can happen in schools, colleges, institutions, or group homes.

Bullying

People with disabilities are bullied more than others. This can hurt them.

What to Do if You Are Bullied

You Can Report It. Tell teachers, principals, or counselors if it happens at school.



You can File Due Process Complaints. If you are in a public school, you can file a complaint if the school does not stop the bullying. You can mention laws like the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA.



You can File an ADA Complaint. Bullying because of your disability can be considered discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act or ADA. You can file a complaint with the Department of Education Office of Civil Rights or the Department of Justice.

Abuse by Staff

People with disabilities face higher rates of abuse and neglect by staff in schools, institutions, and group homes.

What to Do if Abused by Staff

Report it to other staff members, counselors, or doctors. Many are mandated reporters. That means they must report abuse to the authorities.

Seclusion and Restraint

This involves staff holding someone down, using restraints, or isolating them.

Is Seclusion and Restraint Illegal?

The laws are different in each state. Sometimes these practices might be against the law.

Even if seclusion and restraints are not illegal, they might break other laws. They may break laws against hurting someone or treating them unfairly.

If you go to a public school, it might also go against IDEA or ADA.



Remember that there are things you can do to stop abuse and neglect. There are laws to protect you. Do not be afraid to ask for help or report what is happening.