

People with developmental disabilities are 4 to 10 times more likely to be victims of crime than other people are.

(Sobsey, D., D. Wells, R. Lucardie, and S. Mansell. 1995. *Violence and Disability: An Annotated Bibliography*. Baltimore, MD. Brookes Publishing.)

More than half of all abuse of people with disabilities is estimated to be perpetrated by family members and peers with disabilities. Disability professionals (i.e., paid or unpaid caregivers, doctors, and nurses) are generally believed responsible for the other half. In addition, approximately 67 percent of perpetrators who abused individuals with severe cognitive disabilities accessed them through their work in disability services.

(Sobsey, D. and T. Doe. 1991. "Patterns of sexual abuse and assault." *Journal of Sexuality and Disability*, 9(3): 243-259.)

Women with disabilities reported experiencing abuse for longer periods of time than women without disabilities; a collective difference of 3.9 years vs. 2.5 years. Also, the types of abuse experienced by the women with disabilities specifically reported that their abusers sometimes withheld wheelchairs, braces, medications, and denied them transportation or assistance with personal tasks.

(Young, M.E., et al. 1997. "Prevalence of Abuse of Women with Physical Disabilities." *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Special Issue*. 78 (12, Suppl. 5) S34-S38.)

(Statistics provided VIA the 2006 NCVRW Resource Guide)

Free, Confidential Legal Advice and Counsel:

Abuse Victim Hotline

1.866.MobileLaw
(for those who are deaf, use
TTY Mass relay service, dial
711, and when asked for a
number, give the operator 781-
853-0137, then follow TTY
protocol to type inquiry)

Email:

help@avhotline.org

Operating Hours:
M-F 8am-5pm

Abuse Victim Hotline, Inc. complies by the
regulations implemented by HIPAA

Abuse Victim Hotline, Inc.
500 Beach Street
Revere, MA 02151
Business Phone: (781) 656-0370
www.avhotline.org

Have you been
victimized because of
your disability?



Has your caregiver
taken advantage of
you?

**You have a LEGAL
right to safety**

**For Free, Confidential Legal
Advice and Emotional Support,
contact the**

Abuse Victim Hotline

by phone:

1.866.MobileLaw

(for those who are deaf, use TTY Mass relay
service, dial 711, and when asked for a
number, give the operator 781-853-0137,
then follow TTY protocol to type inquiry)

by computer:

help@avhotline.org

www.avhotline.org

TYPES OF ABUSE OF DISABLED PERSONS:

(As defined by the SSA)

Physical: use of physical force to harm, beating, slapping, pushing, or kicking; overmedicating; restricting movement; sexual exploitation; withholding food or water

Psychological: verbal harassment and threats, causing an individual severe emotional distress

Financial: mismanagement of the funds of a disabled person, theft, extortion (taking money through force), fraud (taking money by means of deception)

If you or someone you know is disabled and a victim of abuse, you should report it!

If there is immediate danger, **call 911**

**For FREE,
CONFIDENTIAL Legal
Advice and Counsel,
contact the**

Abuse Victim
Hotline

Call **1.866.MobileLaw**

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when asked for a number, give the
operator 781-853-0137)

or **email** your inquiry to
our confidential email
service:

help@avhotline.org

TYPES OF ABUSE OF DISABLED PERSONS:

(As defined by the SSA)

Caretaker Neglect:
when a caregiver fails to
provide basic necessities
(food/water, shelter,
medication, personal care)

Self Neglect: an adult
unable to manage his/her
needs (food/water, shelter,
medication, personal
care), or unable to handle
the tasks of everyday life

www.avhotline.org