



TO: Executive Directors of Voluntary Provider Agencies  
Directors, Developmental Disabilities Regional Offices  
Directors, Developmental State Operations Offices  
Provider Associations

FROM: Megan O'Connor-Hebert, Deputy Commissioner   
Division of Quality Improvement

SUBJECT: Abuse Prevention -- Self-Assessment for an Abuse Free Environment

DATE: May 13, 2015

The Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) is committed to providing services in safe environments. To support your abuse prevention efforts, the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities, in collaboration with Office of Mental Health, Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, Office of Children and Family Services, State Education Department and Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs, has developed the attached ***Self-Assessment for an Abuse Free Environment***.

This tool will help you to think in terms of an abuse-free environment, to self-evaluate your program(s) for risk of abuse or neglect, and to provide resources to mitigate the identified areas of risk. The self-assessment is adapted from the *Nursing Home Abuse Risk Profile and Checklist* developed by the National Association of States United on Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) for the U.S. Administration on Aging.

**This self-assessment is an optional tool and will not be audited by Office for People With Developmental Disabilities, the Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs, or other surveyors. OPWDD strongly recommends that agencies utilize this tool as part of their organization's Abuse Prevention Initiatives.**

For additional information, please contact [prevention@justicecenter.ny.gov](mailto:prevention@justicecenter.ny.gov) or [incident.management@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:incident.management@opwdd.ny.gov).

Thank you.

Enclosure: Self-Assessment for an Abuse Free Environment (April 2015)