



Why Is Abuse Not Reported?

People who are abused often do not tell about abuse for various reasons, including:

FEAR

Abusers often manipulate or threaten victims that if they tell – victims feel afraid that they did something wrong and will get into trouble.

GUILT

Victim may feel guilty or confused for “letting” the abuse happen – especially if some of what the abuser did feels good.

MANIPULATION

Abusers can convince people that they share a rare relationship, and that what the abuser does is out of love or because the child is special.

LACK OF AWARENESS

Some people with disabilities, including autism, don't realize they are being abused.



PROTECTION

Victim may be afraid that the abuser will get into trouble.

OBEDIENCE

Victim may be taught to be overly compliant, to follow directions, and to always do what others tell them to do, especially someone with authority

INDIRECT DISCLOSURES

When victims tell, it may be long after the abuse or may be indirect. Children with autism may attempt to disclose, but may not directly report the abuse to a trusted adult.

www.paautism.org/BeSafe