



May 1, 2016

## **Rule Out Abuse Campaign: A Call for Help**

Today is May Day 2016. On this day, recognizing a call for help, we are asking people to spread the word about the Rule Out Abuse Campaign. We are seeking to increase awareness that abuse happens to children and adults with disabilities. Our specific target audience is the health and mental health profession. We are seeking to increase awareness of those who provide health and mental health services to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities...or any disability for that matter.

All our materials are online on our homepage at [www.disabilityandabuse.org](http://www.disabilityandabuse.org). There are four documents:

1. An endorsement letter from Dr. Vincent Felitti, the co-principal investigator of the ACES program, that through their research found that those who experienced adverse childhood events continued to suffer throughout their lifetime in the domains of psychological, social and physical repercussions.
2. The Rationale letter, that explains the genesis of the Rule Out Campaign.
3. Part One of the Rule Out Abuse information packet.
4. Part Two of the Rule Out Abuse information packet.

What we seek is relatively simple: asking health practitioners to add “abuse” to their list of conditions that they review when analyzing symptoms presented by their patient or the parents/caregivers of their patients.

Please help us celebrate the launch of the Rule Out Abuse Campaign, by forwarding this letter to physicians, mental health and other health practitioners to more quickly identify signs of abuse and take appropriate action.

Sincerely,

The Disability and Abuse Team