

Stop Seclusion and Restraint in Schools – Now!

Groups File Suit Over Autistic Student's Death.

Mom Says Son Handcuffed to Door at Detroit School.

School District Aide Charged with Child Abuse.

These are just several examples of stories involving seclusion and restraint practices that have made headlines in Michigan. There are other stories where children have been killed, confined, tied up, pinned down, and battered.

It's shocking. It's wrong. And it needs to stop – now!

Following the lead of their national association, National Disability Rights Network, who issued a report on abuses nationwide,¹ Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service (MPAS) is building a strong case for change in Michigan.

MPAS is collecting and investigating recent stories from families who have had personal experience with seclusion and restraint practices in Michigan schools.

The information will be used to develop a report to educate Michigan policymakers and others on the need to develop tough regulation prohibiting dangerous practices of seclusion and restraint in schools.

Currently, Michigan law neither prohibits the use of seclusion and restraint nor requires adequate reporting and monitoring of its use in schools. This must be changed – and your feedback could make a difference.

MPAS is not working alone. Over 25 statewide organizations have joined forces in an effort to eliminate these and other dangerous practices. **If you have not already, please join our effort.** Send us your mailing or email address to receive updates on this crucial issue. Reach out to others and share your concerns or tell us your story.

Everyone agrees that schools should be safe. Lack of funding or training is no excuse for the continuation of dangerous practices. If these practices are not permissible in places where our children live, they should not be permissible where they learn.

If you or someone you know has experienced seclusion or restraint in a Michigan school within the past year, please call **MPAS at 800.288.5923**, fax at **517.487.0827**, or contact them through their Web site at www.mpas.org.

¹ *School is Not Supposed to Hurt: Investigative Report on Abuse, Restraint and Seclusion in Schools*, (www.napas.org/sr/SR-Report.pdf).