What do I do if this happens in my community?

1. **Contact ASAN**

ASAN can help you plan your next steps and give advice on how to hold a vigil and call for justice. We also keep records of disability-motivated filicides. Email us at info@autisticadvocacy.org.

2. **Get the language right**

Change the conversation: challenge poisonous ideas and help prevent copycat crimes. Read How do we talk about this? for more.

3. **Hold a vigil**

Mourn the victim and call for justice. See our vigil guidebook at the end of this toolkit for more.

4. **Watch the media**

Encourage journalists to speak to disabled people, follow best practices for preventing copycat crimes, center the victim, and treat this filicide like all other filicides. Refer them to this toolkit. Push back when they make mistakes.

5. **Push back**

If someone attempts to justify, minimize, or normalize the murder, challenge them. Don’t let them interpret your silence as agreement.

6. **Sentencing**

Call for sentencing parity under the law. Sentence parity means that people who kill disabled people receive comparable punishments as people who kill non-disabled people. It also means that people with certain types of privilege (such as race and class) don’t get lesser sentences than people without this privilege. Emphasize that people with disabilities have a right to expect full and equal protection under the law.

7. **Call for hate crimes legislation**

As appropriate, advocate for expanding state and federal hate crimes legislation to include disability and filicide against disabled victims. To find out about your state’s hate crime legislation, go here. See our toolkits about advocating with elected officials found here.

8. **Hold the justice system accountable**

Contact your local P&A, your local FBI field office and your district attorney. Let them know that the disability community is watching. Let them know that we are outraged. Tell them to do their jobs. You can look up your local FBI office here and your local US attorney’s office here.