

# What do I do if this happens in my community?

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## 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](mailto: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](#).