

# Ohio's Home Health Care Crisis

## News Channel 5 Cleveland Coverage:

“The Ohio agency that oversees those with developmental disabilities often fails to act despite serious health and safety violations by service providers.”

“An exclusive 5 On Your Side investigation into Ohio's Department of Developmental Disabilities found more than **2,000 people with disabilities were victims of abuse last year - ranging from physical and sexual assaults to neglect.**”

“In addition - according to statistics provided by the agency - of 1,587 compliance reviews of service providers in 2012, 38 percent, or 603, were cited for failure to follow state health and safety regulations.” (*News Channel 5 Cleveland*, 11/7/2013)

Michael Kirkman, Executive Director of Disability Rights Ohio, was quoted in Channel 5's and said their investigation raised serious questions. **Kirkman told the reporter, "I think what you're uncovering is that it's actually not working."** (*News Channel 5 Cleveland*, 11/7/2013)

"Ohio DODD fails to act, leaving disabled at risk"

<http://www.newsnet5.com/news/local-news/investigations/ohio-agency-overseeing-developmentally-disabled-often-fails-to-act-leaving-disabled-at-risk>

"Hundreds of Ohio services providers for disabled repeatedly ignore health, safety regulations"

<http://www.newsnet5.com/news/local-news/investigations/hundreds-of-ohio-service-providers-for-disabled-repeatedly-ignore-health-safety-regulations>

## Columbus Dispatch Coverage:

*“The upshot: **nearly 60 percent of cases handled by the state’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit each year involve home health-care providers.** The unit has 100 full-time employees, nearly double the 55 it had four years ago.”*  
*Columbus Dispatch 12/14/14*

"Home-care crisis: Fraud costs taxpayers, vulnerable Ohioans"

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/12/14/home-care-crisis.html>

"Home-care for vulnerable Ohioans leans hard on poorly paid workers"

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/12/15/low-wage-care.html>

"Families on their own in trying to find reliable home health care"

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/12/16/on-your-own.html>

**Governor Kasich proposes to only allow the state to accept billings from certified home health care agencies, but these agencies can have problems too. See below.**

*“And an analysis of Ohio Department of Health survey records found that **62 percent of Medicare-certified home health-care agencies were subject to at least one complaint investigation between 2009 and 2014.** Such investigations are typically triggered by allegations about poor quality of care or treatment, abuse, misappropriation of funds and failure to respect resident rights, according to a department spokeswoman.”*

“Home health worker charged with rape had record in North Carolina”

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/11/24/Health-care-worker-charged-with-rape-had-record.html>

“‘Certified’ home-care providers can deceive”

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/02/01/certified-providers-can-deceive.html>