

# Health and Welfare Alert



Ohio Administrative Code 5123:2-17-02 requires all developmental disabilities employees to review Health and Welfare Alerts released by the department as part of annual training. All previous alerts are listed on the department's website.

## Misappropriation #32-8-17

The Department of Developmental Disabilities collects data about misappropriation, or theft, through Major Unusual Incidents (MUI) reporting. In 2016, there were 901 substantiated, or confirmed, theft allegations involving people with developmental disabilities in Ohio. Theft allegations made up almost 7 percent of all MUIs, with 66 percent of those cases substantiated that year.

### Red Flags

*of possible misappropriation*

Cash is often available in the person's home without a standard way to account for spending

Person receives bills for items they didn't purchase or are not their preferences, such as gasoline receipts for someone who doesn't own a car

Receipts indicate purchases made when the person wasn't present or from areas they do not frequent

Groceries and supplies are used or purchased at a rate not fitting the person's schedule or preferences

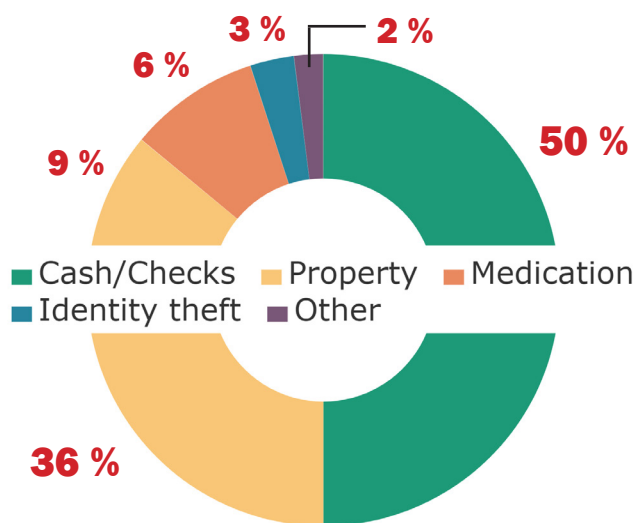
Bottles of medication are missing, including ones that should be discarded

### Prevention Tips

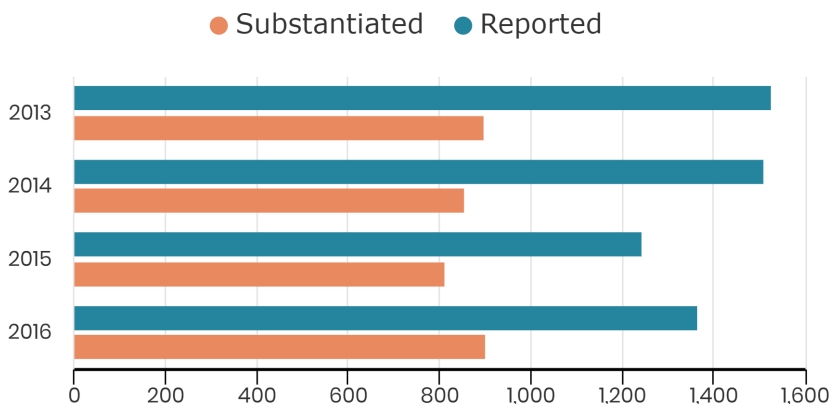
- Discuss ways people can protect their property and financial information, such as securing cash in a safe location
- Require receipts for all purchases made for a person and verify acceptance of items, especially those of larger value
- Minimize number of staff with access to medication and cash on hand, accounting for medication each shift
- Audit all employees who handle personal funds: home manager, direct support professional, program managers
- Review the [Personal Funds Rule](#) for providers

### Fast Facts

Substantiated Misappropriations in 2016



In 2016, cash and checks were the No. 1 item taken from people with developmental disabilities, making up half of all misappropriations substantiated by the MUI team



Reported misappropriations have decreased since 2013, while the substantiated claims rate has increased