

The following statement from The Arc of IL is in response to an article published on Monday about Choate Developmental Center:

“Earlier this week, another horrific news [article](#) from reporters Beth Hundsdorfer and Molly Parker highlighted ongoing and significant concerns at Choate Developmental Center related to allegations of abuse and neglect of residents as well as employee stonewalling in the investigation process. The Arc of Illinois calls on Governor Pritzker to compel state employees to fully participate in investigations related to this or any other incident of alleged abuse or neglect as a condition of employment. It is unpalatable that state employees can circumvent investigations by walking out on interviews and otherwise disregard the investigatory process with no consequences. The Arc also calls on the Governor to assure that the Illinois State Police have access to certified forensic interviewers who are skilled in working with victims who have IDD and conditions that result in communication challenges. The Arc of Illinois continues to stand ready to assist the Governor’s office and the Division of Developmental Disabilities to begin a planned and safe closure of Choate.”

-- Amie Lulinski, PhD, Executive Director of The Arc of Illinois.