



Written by [Alex Newman](#) on December 11, 2019

Schools “Torture” Thousands in “Solitary Confinement”

From [FreedomProject Media](#):

Outraged parents and children are accusing government schools in Chicago of “torturing” thousands of children in so-called “seclusion rooms,” according to an investigation by local media outlets. In many cases, the controversial treatment was reportedly against the law.

Under the measure, children as young as 5, most of whom are classified as disabled, were placed in solitary confinement as a “disciplinary” measure. Inside, they desperately slammed themselves against walls, frantically scratched the windows, screamed for their parents, urinated and defecated on themselves, and more. Often, the children spent hours locked inside.

“The spaces have gentle names: The reflection room. The cool-down room. The calming room. The quiet room,” [explained](#) reporters from the *Chicago Tribune* and ProPublica. “But shut inside them, in public schools across the state, children as young as 5 wail for their parents, scream in anger and beg to be let out.”

The bizarre treatment, known as “isolated timeout,” was legal under Illinois law in cases where the children posed a safety risk to themselves or to others. But there were more than 20,000 reported uses of the practice in the 2017-2018 school year alone, according to government records.

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