

Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of September 15 to January 21, 2018

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Articles are listed in alphabetical order by state within each category, so you can easily scan through the articles for those within your state or other states in which you have an interest. *International* articles are near the end. The categories are: *Abuse and Neglect, Guardianship, Laws & Legislation, Studies & Statistics, Improved Supports, International, and sometimes, Miscellaneous.*

Check the categories below for a guide to types of abuse. The categories are indicated by type, and the number of the article.

Type:

Sexual Assault: 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, 18, 19, 29, 43, 50, 51, 52

Seclusion: 20

Physical Abuse: 7, 15, 21, 25, 61

Emotional/Verbal Abuse: 7, 21, 25

Financial Abuse: 24, 41

Murder: 14, 22, 28

Attempted Murder: 17, 26, 44

Neglect: 11, 17, 41

Neglected to Death: 10

Social media abuse: 2, 64

Endangered: 23

Access: ADA: 3

WINNERS of most egregious award: 23: sex offenders co-housed with people with developmental disabilities; 64: Thugs make money posting attacks on vulnerable people.

WINNER of “good job” award: 31: DC to require open captioning for moviegoers.

WHO DUN IT (listed by article number):

Family: 25, 26, 27, 41, 52

Carer: 7, 11, 14, 18, 19, 24, 29, 44, 50

Stranger:

Special education employee: 8, 15, 21

Group home counselor:

Men: 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 115, 18, 19, 25, 26, 43, 50, 51, 52, 61

Women: 21, 24, 41

Good News: 17: Bad/good? Special education school intents to change its ways after poor performance found by investigators; 19: On3 billion dollar lawsuit filed against nursing home; 13: ACES endorsed by SAMHSA; 38: South Dakota receives grant from SAMHSA to provide mental health services in schools; 42: Commission to study elder abuse after “appalling cases; 48: Review called to review “seclusion rooms” in Alberta, Canada; 59: Rapist gets life sentence for rape of a girl with disabilities; 62: Boy excluded from school photo shoots becomes professional model; 65: “Handicapped Miss Italy” in finals despite insults on the internet.

Bad News: 20: Teen inmate kept in solitary confinement for 71 days; 53: Man with autism arrested for touching a woman’s chest at mall; 56: public school rejects students with Down syndrome and autism.

PLEASE NOTE: Visit our website at www.disabilityandabuse.org While on the homepage, we invite you to “like” us at the bottom of the page, making it easier to keep up with our activities! Prior weekly newsfeeds are archived at: <http://disabilityandabuse.org/newsfeed/contents.htm>

ABUSE & NEGLECT

1. "Lee County man convicted of rape, sodomy of mentally handicapped woman" - A Lee County man has been convicted of sexual assault crimes. Fitzgerald Hutchinson was convicted of second-degree rape and first-degree sodomy. According to authorities in Lee County, the victim was mentally handicapped.- WTVM- September 17, 2018 – (Alabama) - <https://is.gd/752svm>
2. "Arizona Man Charged with Sexual Abuse After Allegedly Faking Down Syndrome: Police" An Arizona man has been hit with multiple counts of sexual abuse charges along with other charges of fraudulence. WGRZ 2 – September 15, 2018 – (Arizona) - <https://is.gd/iE92lc>
3. "Many shelters can't handle domestic-violence survivors with disabilities" - Deaf and hard-of-hearing survivors of domestic violence used to leave A New Leaf's shelters after a day or two, frustrated by a lack of qualified interpreters and the ensuing communication problems. – AZ Central – September 16, 2018 – (Arizona) - <https://is.gd/aYaHwP>
4. "Arizona Center for Disability Law sues state over records on psychiatric patient's death" - The group, which among other things, investigates abuse and neglect of Arizona individuals with mental illness, [says the hospital violated federal law](#) when it refused to provide "reasonable" unaccompanied access to its facilities, patients and records. – AZ Central – September 14, 2018 – (Arizona) - <https://is.gd/hCSJLh>
5. "Suspect sought in sexual assault of autistic man in San Juan Capistrano library" - Sheriff's deputies are searching for a suspect in the sexual assault of an autistic man at the San Juan Capistrano Public Library in April. – The

Orange County Register – September 19, 2018 – (California) - <https://is.gd/132j4W>

6. “Napa assisted living home accused of elder abuse” - The reported incident could have been avoided, according to a lawsuit filed late last month in Napa County Superior Court, if Aegis Assisted Living of Napa was not “chronically understaffed and poorly run.” – Napa Valley Register – September 19, 2018 – (California) - <https://is.gd/eh41UX>

7. “Suit alleges more abuse of disabled people at Carlton Palms as facility prepares to close”- As Carlton Palms Educational Center prepares to close its doors next month, the state’s largest care center for people with severe developmental and behavioral disabilities has been sued again for alleged abuse of a resident. – Orlando Sentinel – September 17, 2018 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/M0A5cg>

8. “Former special needs teacher accused of rape” - He was a special needs teacher in Hillsborough County. Now, he's a criminal defendant accused of raping a former student with mental disabilities. – Fox 13 – September 18, 2018 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/DhRdOw>

9. “Tallahassee man accused of assaulting woman in wheelchair” - A man is behind bars in Leon County, accused of sexually assaulting a paralyzed woman. The victim reported to the Tallahassee Police Department on September 6 that 49-year-old Jonahus McQuay had come to her apartment to pray and then sexually assaulted her. – WCTV- September 28, 2018 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/Xhy3oG>

10. “Two plead not guilty to elder abuse” - A doctor and caregiver who operated two unlicensed in-home healthcare facilities in the Upper Keys, one of which housed an 85-year-old woman who died after living in what authorities describe as abhorrent conditions, have pleaded not guilty to elder abuse. – Keys News – September 19, 2018 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/9DUPca>

11. “Bond reduced for personal care owner in neglect case” - Hymel was initially arrested after five disabled residents were found living in a dilapidated trailer infested with insects and lacking air conditioning and a working toilet. There was no food or medicine for the residents, and one had infected wounds he suffered a week earlier when attacked by a dog. – The Augusta Chronicle – September 14, 2018 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/bFXXb1>

12. “Man known to give wheelchair rides to kids charged with sexual abuse” - A man known to give children rides on his motorized wheelchair at a Nampa apartment complex has been charged with sexual abuse of a minor, according to Nampa Police. – Idaho Press – September 17, 2018 – (Idaho) - <https://is.gd/IF9xMQ>

13. “Man charged with sexually assaulting mentally disabled woman in Palos Hills” - A man has been charged with sexually assaulting a mentally disabled woman at her southwest suburban home after exposing himself to her while she shopped at the Bridgeview Walmart. – September 17, 2018 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/oZB9My>

14. “Report: North Iowa nursing home fined for abuse before residents' deaths” - State officials investigated the Timely Mission Nursing Home 19

times due to complaints over the five years before the deaths of two residents led to a \$77,462 fine in August. – Globe Gazette – September 15, 2018 – (Iowa) - <https://is.gd/aLualc>

15. “Former bus driver charged with assault for allegedly striking autistic teenager” - A former bus driver has been charged with assault for allegedly striking an autistic teenager. – WGME 13 – September 20, 2018 – (Maine) - <https://is.gd/4YvknA>

16. “Stranger in the house” - Most home health aides offer vital care to the frail and aged. But some have other designs, leaving too many clients vulnerable to theft and worse. It is a crisis largely unseen, one which state authorities have done little about.- The Boston Globe – September 15, 2018 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/OM7kuJ>

17. “Violence, neglect and false advertising: The fall of a Massachusetts special education school” - The Disability Law Center's investigation of the school was damning, but did not close the book on Tri-County -- or its leadership. The DLC, a nonprofit authorized to conduct official investigations of abuse against disabled people in Massachusetts, has said the school intends to "reassess its operation and re-open with a trauma-informed care focus." It would need state approval to do so. – Mass Live – September 16, 2018 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/MtgOvQ>

18. “Charge: Andover Man Impregnated Vulnerable Adult at Group Home where he was Supervisor” - A 39-year-old Andover man is charged via warrant with criminal sexual abuse of a vulnerable adult after he reportedly impregnated a woman at a home where he worked as the supervisor. –

Eyewitness News – September 18, 2018 – (Minneapolis) -
<https://is.gd/2kwJUE>

19. “\$1 billion lawsuit: Ferguson nursing home allowed sexual assault of 84-year-old” - “A Ferguson family has filed a \$1 billion lawsuit claiming their 84-year-old loved one was raped in the nursing home where she lived.” – Channel 5- September 20, 2018- (Missouri) - <https://is.gd/leVZdC>

20. “Teen inmate spent 71 days in solitary confinement at Miles City facility, report says” - In a [report released Sept. 10](#) by Disability Rights Montana, the group says Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility in Miles City places youth inmates in solitary for months on end.- Montana Standard – September 17, 2018 – (Montana) - <https://is.gd/Ajsq2e>

21. “A Nevada teaching assistant abused several special needs students. She didn't get any jail time” - On Dec. 6, 2017, school police discovered a pattern of ongoing verbal and physical abuse by Schwenke. Officers interviewed five Helen Herr staff members who witnessed the abuse over several months. – ABC 15 – September 14, 2018 – (Nevada) -
<https://is.gd/JHjy3J>

22. “Arrest Made in Deadly Hit-And-Run Of New Jersey Man with Special Needs” - Police have made an arrest after a man with special needs was struck by a hit-and-run driver in New Jersey and died from his injuries on Wednesday. – Channel 2 – September 19, 2018 – (New Jersey) -
<https://is.gd/sPC7VH>

23. “Group finds sex offenders in local homes for developmentally disabled” - Six registered sex offenders are living in group homes with the

developmentally disabled in Washington and Saratoga counties, according to part of an analysis by an advocacy group for the disabled. – The Post Star – September 20, 2018 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/V8GVDO>

24. “Cleveland Woman Charged with 16 Counts of Financial Exploitation” - According to the criminal complaint, Schmitz worked at an adult foster care center in St. Peter as a Representative Payee, her responsibilities included managing social security monies for vulnerable adults. After an investigation, it was found that Schmitz had been writing resident checks out to buy gift cards that she used for herself. – KNUJ – September 15, 2018 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/11FYxf>
25. “Man accused of taking wife with dementia to fair on leash, 'yanking' it when she wandered” - A Maryland man was arrested Saturday at a Pennsylvania fair after witnesses said he yanked a leash attached to his mentally impaired wife’s neck so hard it caused her head to snap back and left red marks around her throat, police said. – Action News – September 18, 2018 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/945sxf>
26. “Pulaski father charged with setting fire to his daughter's wheelchair while she was in it” - A Pulaski dad is charged with a series of crimes that put his daughter in the hospital. Timothy Shane Medley, 41, has been indicted for setting a fire at his home in the 400 block of Jones Street in Pulaski, Giles County. According to investigators, Medley used an accelerant to set his daughter’s wheelchair on fire while she was in it. – WKRN- September 21, 2018 – (Tennessee) - <https://is.gd/ZfV449>
27. “Parents charged with child abuse, 17-year-old found weighing 62 pounds” - Police in Roman Forest say the parents of a disabled boy intentionally

starved him and kept him in his room tied to a bed with straps. – KHOU – Sept 15, 2018 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/88QXRh>

28. “Coroner rules homicide in death of man at Yakima care facility” - Police say that on Aug. 18, Garden Village resident James J. LittleBull, 77, of Yakima assaulted Bunkelman and another resident using a metal footrest off his wheelchair. The victims were taken to a local hospital for treatment. Bunkelman was released Aug. 28 back to Garden Village, where he died two days later. – Yakima Herald – September 14, 2018 – (Washington) - <https://is.gd/FFB5RC>

29. “Former Caregiver Accused of Rape of Developmentally Disabled Teen” - CPS (Child Protection Services) began to investigate Suarez after allegations surfaced that he committed acts of abuse towards the victim, who was 14 at the time. Authorities say he allegedly forced the teen to perform sexual acts on him during events that were labeled 'sleepovers,' and he forced him to undress after which pictures of him were taken. – News Talk – September, 2018 – (Washington) - <https://is.gd/D1Hn4D>

GUARDIANSHIP

30. “Perfecting Permanency: What’s Being Done to Improve Adoptions and Guardianships” - The growth in adoptive and guardianship homes has led to a heightened awareness of the complex needs families can encounter at any point after permanence has been achieved. – The Chronicle of Social Change – September 18, 2018 – (National) - <https://is.gd/1KJZxz>

LAWS & LEGISLATION

31. “Movie Theaters Are Often Frustrating for the Deaf Community. This Bill Could Help” - If the bill passes, D.C. would join [Hawaii](#) in requiring theaters to screen some of its films with open captioning. Co-introduced by Ward 1's Brianne Nadeau and At-large Councilmembers Anita Bonds and David

Grosso, it has been directed to the Committee of the Whole. – DCist – September 19, 2018 – (DC)- <https://is.gd/9BZVBs>

STUDIES & STATISTICS

32. “How ACEs create children with behavioral health problems” - These early life traumatic experiences can include physical, sexual or emotional abuse; physical or emotional neglect; intimate partner violence; substance abuse; household mental illnesses; and parental separation, such as through divorce or incarceration, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. – Concord Monitor- September 17, 2018 – (New Hampshire) - <https://is.gd/ouUyS4>

33. “Research adds heft to link between autism and obesity” - Nearly half of American children with autism aged 10 to 17 are overweight or obese, compared with less than one-third of their typically developing peers, according to a new study¹. And those with the most severe autism features appear to be at the greatest risk of being obese. -Spectrum – September 17, 2108 – (National) - <https://is.gd/NNLUNn>

34. “Disclosure of autism at work holds risks and benefits” - In the past several years, the [Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee](#)(IACC) has highlighted research addressing ‘lifespan issues,’ such as housing and employment. – Spectrum- September 18, 2018 – (Maryland) - <https://is.gd/xcuMT5>

IMPROVED SUPPORTS

35. “Building relationships between students on the playing field” - In what may look like an ordinary soccer game to anyone else is really a partnership that is building between two different kinds of students. General education and special education students are teaming up at the Clovis North Unified

Soccer Invitational. – ABC Action News – September 14, 2018 – (California) - <https://is.gd/bc5bZ9>

36. “Editorial: Nebraska must address sexual abuse, suicide concerns for vulnerable youth” - A new report says a state inspector general received 45 reports of child sexual abuse during fiscal 2017-18, up from 29 the year before and 16 the year before that. – Omaha World- Herald – September 21, 2018 – (Nebraska) - <https://is.gd/xSKuuL>

37. “Center for Disability Rights awarded \$15K grant for youth sports” - A grant awarded to the Center for Disability Rights (CDR) will go toward expanding youth sports programs at the center. The \$15,356 grant was awarded by the Rochester Area Community Foundation through the Ralph C. Wilson Legacy Fund for Youth Sports. WHAM 13- September 18, 2018 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/omXzz7>

38. “South Dakota Receives Grant to Support Mental Health Services in Schools” - The South Dakota Department of Education has been awarded an \$8.7 million Project AWARE grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The grant is a partnership with the Department of Social Services. – Press & Dakotan – September 18, 2018 - <https://is.gd/wbYfNr>

39. “Help available for senior adults, disabled” - Denise West, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) coordinator with the East Tennessee Human Resources Agency (ETHRA) spoke about various programs in Anderson and surrounding counties run through her organization, and in general. – OakRidger- September 18, 2018 – (Tennessee) - <https://is.gd/bRkHN3>

40. "Raleigh County Commission on Aging sheds light on elderly abuse" - To spread awareness about this problem, the Raleigh County Commission on Aging hosted its 13th annual elderly abuse conference. – WVVA- September 14, 2018 – (West Virginia) - <https://is.gd/rW6Sno>
41. "Woman to spend up to 35 years in prison for neglecting, stealing from mother" - A Charleston woman could spend up to 35 years in prison for neglecting her incapacitated mother and stealing more than \$60,000 from her in the months leading up to the mother's death. – Charleston Gazette Mail – September 19, 2018 – (West Virginia) - <https://is.gd/8Wepgt>

INTERNATIONAL

42. "Appalling cases of abuse in aged care facilities prompt royal commission" - Prime Minister Scott Morrison will announce a royal commission into the aged care sector following appalling cases of abuse of elderly people, it's been reported. Mr. Morrison will announce the inquiry on Sunday, with the decision triggered in part by the Oakden nursing home scandal in South Australia, News Corp Australia reports. – News.Com.Au – September 16, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/xbocNw>
43. "NSW man denies undressing dementia patient" - A man accused of indecently assaulting a wheelchair-bound woman with dementia while he was visiting a Sydney nursing home has rubbished claims he scouted out an empty room before the alleged offence. – 9 News – September 19, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/iYy1MO>
44. "Australia's elder abuse scandal 'beyond belief'" - A hidden camera captures the chilling moment when an Australian care worker appears to

try to suffocate an 89-year-old man with dementia. – BBC News – September 17, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/kHpoTV>

45. “Australia facing an 'epidemic of child abuse and neglect', according to experts” - In what has been described as a world-first examination of child protection reports, Australia's systems are shown to be in meltdown amid unprecedented levels of child abuse and neglect. – ABC News – September 15, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/XKXAtI>

46. “Without a royal commission, how do people with a disability report abuse?” - The Prime Minister has rejected calls — [including the impassioned plea](#) from Greens senator Jordon Steele-John — to include the disability sector in the royal commission into aged care.- ABC News- September 19, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/NRnCJs>

47. “Signing, deaf awareness and inclusion” - Brimsdown Primary School is a mainstream school in Enfield, North London, with a hearing impairment resource base – HIRBiE. If you ask any of the staff at Brimsdown they will tell you how important inclusion is to us as a school. We firmly believe that every child deserves the right to be treated equally and to receive the same quality of education as everyone else. – Teacher Magazine – September 17, 2018 – (Britain) - <https://is.gd/riOnRA>

48. “Advocacy group calls for review of seclusion rooms in Alberta schools” - Seclusion rooms for students with disabilities should be regulated or banned from Alberta school, says an advocacy group for people with disabilities. – CBC News- September 14, 2018 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/e1LCd6>

49. “Fraud victim: ‘I’m deaf but the bank refused to talk to us’ ” – “I am deaf but the bank did not take this into consideration and made no attempt to adapt to my needs,” she says. “This led to confusion, misunderstandings and, frankly, atrocious customer service.” – The Guardian – September 15, 2018 – (England) - <https://is.gd/ek3o2w>
50. “Six Disabled Inmates of MP Shelter Home Accuse Owner of Raping Them for Years” - In a written complaint, the victims also alleged that three girls had lost their lives to the sexual assault by the elderly owner. Six hearing- and speech-impaired inmates of a shelter home in the state have accused their elderly owner of sexually exploiting them since 2010. – News 18 – September 14, 2018 – (India) - <https://is.gd/e8MUbP>
51. “Hyderabad: Driver held for rape of disabled woman” - A TSRTC driver who laced sedatives in sweets to drug a differently abled woman and raped her was arrested by the Medipally police on Tuesday. The wife of the accused who also forced the woman to cooperate with her husband was also booked and arrested, said the police. – Deccan Chronicle – September 19, 2018 – (India) - <https://is.gd/glgZi1>
52. “Indian husband 'is prostituting out his mentally disabled teenage wife to several of his friends – and he only married her for a visa'” - A social worker in [New Zealand](#) has filed a police complaint on behalf of a mentally disabled teenage wife who's husband is allegedly prostituting her.- Daily Mail – September 18, 2018 – (India) - <https://is.gd/lmH5fv>
53. “Arrest of autistic man in molest case conducted in accordance with SOP, says police chief” –“We believe actions taken in carrying out this investigation are based on the SOP and acting in accordance with the law,”

said Mohamad Azlin, adding the case was being investigated under Section 354 of the Penal Code.- New Straits Times – September 21, 2018 – (Malaysia) - <https://is.gd/zHM73h>

54. “Disability law labelled 'shame on society' a step closer to repeal” - Families who care for their disabled loved ones have been [fighting to overturn](#) Part 4A of the NZ Public Health and Disability Act since 2013, when its introduction banned them taking discrimination cases over the government's family care policy to court. – New Zealand Herald – September 19, 2018 – (New Zealand) - <https://is.gd/WsRFlo>
55. “Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Examined the Report of the Philippines” - The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities concluded today its consideration of the initial report of the Philippines on the efforts to implement its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. – Insurance News – September 13, 2018 – (Philippines) - <https://is.gd/9idfbP>
56. “Public schools reject students with autism, Down syndrome” - The Ministry of Education has refused to accept in its general education school students with autism and Down syndrome deficiencies referred to it by the Ministry of Labor and Social Development. The latter had referred as many as 7,955 students from its rehabilitation centers to general education schools under a merger program, a report in Makkah daily said. – Saudi Gazette – Sept 20, 2018 – (Saudi Arabia) - <https://is.gd/Kq21L7>
57. “Lothian schools for disabled kids investigated by abuse inquiry” - A high-level abuse inquiry is to investigate allegations at three Lothians schools for

disabled children. – Edinburgh News – September 13, 2018 – (Scotland) - <https://is.gd/Ou2pfk>

58. “Apex court rejects jail, caning sought by prosecution for intellectually disabled teen rapist” - He and his 16-year-old victim, who is also intellectually disabled, cannot be named because of a court order. – Today Online – September 23, 2018 – (Singapore) - <https://is.gd/7wiUrw>
(Future date due to being in Singapore)

59. “South Africa: Rapist Sentenced to Life Imprisonment for Raping Disabled Girl” - The accused, Michael Letsebane was facing a charge for raping a minor, who is living with disabilities. – All Africa – September 12, 2018 – (South Africa) - <https://is.gd/JeQXJV>

60. “Thousands of autistic girls and women 'going undiagnosed' due to gender bias” - Number of girls and women with the condition in UK may be vastly underestimated, leading neuroscientist says – The Guardian – September 14, 2018 – United Kingdom - <https://is.gd/eaNZTV>

61. “Autistic boy attacked outside takeaway as he went to buy a burger” - His father, John Horsfall, was told that he was targeted by a group of three or four men armed with bats or bars near Denton Kebab House on Ashton Road at 9.40pm in Denton, Greater Manchester. – Metro- September 17, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/PLRG60>

62. “Autistic boy banned from school photo shoot is now a model for H&M” - A boy who was not allowed to be in his school photo because he had anger issues as a result of his autism is now a professional model. – Metro – September 18, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/RtSzEJ>

63. “Social work with d/Deaf people: key issues in adult safeguarding” - Deafness, particularly in connection with older age, intensifies other risks of abuse and vulnerability that people may experience – Community Care – September 19, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/mEresh>
64. “ABUSE SHAME” Thugs are making money posting sick videos of attacks on homeless, disabled and vulnerable drug users on Instagram” - A Sun probe has uncovered a string of Instagram accounts posting videos of thugs attacking or humiliating the homeless, disabled and vulnerable drug users. The disturbing profiles each have tens of thousands of followers and even offer ad space to make cash on the back of sending the cruel videos viral. – The Sun – September 21, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/eBgzJi>
(If there is a most awful this is it! I would advise trigger warnings)

MISCELLANEOUS

65. “Handicapped Miss Italy finalist despite insults” - A young woman with a prosthetic leg made it to the finals of Miss Italy on Tuesday, despite a torrent of insults on social media ahead of the competition. – Khaleej Times- September 19, 2018 – (Italy) - <https://is.gd/gu25E7>