

Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of April 20 to April 27, 2018

Articles Compiled by Jennifer Palmer

Editing and Commentary by Nora J. Baladerian, Ph.D.,

Posting by Thomas F. Coleman

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: 6, 8, 11, 14, 91, 94

Neglect: 2, 3, 8, 12, 13

Physical Abuse: 7, 15

Financial abuse: 21

Emotional/Verbal Abuse: 5, 93

Murder/death: 5, 12, 23(settlement in Saylor case), 90, 95, 97

Neglected:

Seclusion/Restraint: 36

Unlicensed homes: 2

Wandered then died: 1, 85

WINNER of most egregious award: 4: Judge denies breathing treatment for patient with disabilities, patient dies; 17: Pipeline of for profit companies to provide guardians; 31: IDEA complaints dismissed as “too burdensome” by de Vos

WINNER of “good job” award: 25: Wheelchair access mandated for car services; 32: Honoring of Disability Rights pioneers.

WHO DUN IT (listed by article number):

Family: 13, 90, 91

Carer: 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13

Stranger: 15

Airline: 7

Men: 3, 5, 6, 11, 13, 14, 91

Women: 6, 8, 15, 90

Good News: 58: Indiana will no longer identify special education graduates as “dropouts” because of their disability.

Bad News: 43: Asperger was a Nazi euthanasia advocate; 65: No special education due to teacher shortage

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. "Missing man with developmental disabilities found dead." Sad news out of Costilla County. After a month-long search for a missing man with developmental disabilities, the Costilla County Sheriff's Office says they found the a 63-year old man deceased. --- koaa.com, April 23 (Colorado) <https://is.gd/pMtS26>
2. "Two St. Petersburg unlicensed adult care homes shut down for deplorable conditions." Two unlicensed adult care homes in St. Petersburg have been shut down after deplorable conditions were discovered. --- abcactionnews.com, April 20 (Florida) <https://is.gd/7w7rID>
3. "Suspect in elder abuse free on bond." A man accused of leaving patients restrained and unattended at an assisted living facility is out of jail. Bhoodram Parsaram, 52, appeared in court Saturday morning and walked out of jail on bonds totaling \$2,000 just after 3 p.m. --- cbs12.com, April 21 (Florida) <https://is.gd/Az7Rtm>
4. "Wheelchair user dies days after 'tyrannical' judge ignores request for breathing treatment." Days after Broward County Circuit Judge Merrilee Ehrlich told an inmate her request for medical care was irrelevant, the woman died at home, relatives said Friday. Ehrlich resigned late Friday from her current position after some in the legal community criticized the judge for her behavior that day. --- local10.com, April 21 (Florida) <https://is.gd/2gPbVP>
5. "American judge resigns after video emerges of her abusing woman in wheelchair." An American judge has resigned after footage emerged of her rebuking a wheelchair-bound woman who died three days after the hearing. Sandra Faye Twiggs, who suffered from asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, was in court on April 15 over a domestic violence charge, The Miami Herald reported. --- newshub.co.nz, April 23

(Florida) <https://is.gd/D19aB9>

6. "Cahokia man accused of sexually assaulting handicapped teen." A Cahokia man is facing charges for allegedly sexually assaulting a handicapped teen. -- kmov.com, April 20 (Illinois) <https://is.gd/GetTUU>
7. "Delta tied woman with disability to wheelchair, family claims." A woman with multiple sclerosis says Delta Air Lines employees tied her to a wheelchair with a blanket when they didn't have a chair that could accommodate her disability, and her son says a supervisor cursed at her as she wept. --- chicagotribune.com, April 25 (Illinois) <https://is.gd/mYsY54>
8. "2 nursing assistants plead guilty to neglect." Two Prairie View nursing assistants who were accused of having sexual contact with patients who fled the care center in February have pleaded to reduced charges that removed the sexual allegations. --- wfcourier.com, April 20 (Iowa) <https://is.gd/ukwyEP>
9. "Three Dead in Fire at Maryland Group Home." Kathy Miller was sleeping quietly in her Severn home when an explosion shook her entire house. Within seconds, a neighboring home on Stone Hearth Way was going up in flames. --- firefighternation.com, April 23 (Maryland) <https://is.gd/kDMp0o>
10. "Investigation continues into deadly group home fire." Authorities in Maryland say they are investigating what caused a fire that killed three people at a group home over the weekend. --- wtop.com, April 23 (Maryland) <https://is.gd/sJXaUG>
11. "Guilty plea in sexual abuse case as jury was preparing to hear testimony." A jury was in place as a man charged with sexually abusing a mentally and emotionally impaired child for six years pleaded guilty to a reduced charge. --- kfgo.com, April 25 (Minnesota) <https://is.gd/8gnOuo>
12. "Abuse, Neglect Investigation Underway After Mentally Ill Inmate from Cornish Dies." A federal judge has ordered the speedy release of records to

the Disability Rights Center for its investigation into the death of a mentally ill inmate at the Residential Treatment Unit at the state prison for men. --- vnews.com, April 20 (New Hampshire) <https://is.gd/pRDUtF>

13. “Blind man found living in deplorable conditions, brother in custody.” A caretaker has been taken in for questioning after police found his blind brother living in deplorable conditions in a trailer in Philadelphia's Frankford section. --- abc7chicago.com, April 24 (Pennsylvania) <https://is.gd/QZTA0m>
14. “Harrisburg man accused of sodomizing woman after serving time for sexually assaulting her in 1996.” A 52-year-old Harrisburg man was arrested this week in connection with the sexual assault of an intellectually disabled woman. --- pennlive.com, April 25 (Pennsylvania) <https://is.gd/ILkr2v>
15. “Deaf Publix employee punched by customer looking for item.” Liberty Gratz has been working at her local Publix in Virginia since it opened last fall. Out of all the shifts she has completed, what happened on Sunday afternoon is burned into her memory. --- wfla.com, April 24 (Virginia) <https://is.gd/3bLLzb>

GUARDIANSHIP

16. “Bill signing ceremony celebrates new guardianship law to assist those with disabilities.” In February, the State of Alabama launched Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) accounts, a new financial savings tool for individuals with disabilities. The Enable Savings Plan is a financial program that allows individuals with disabilities to open tax-exempt savings accounts to save for disability-related expenses without impacting resource-based benefits. --- altoday.com, April 20 (Alabama) <https://is.gd/jJr93Y>

17. “Facing scarcity of guardians, bill seeks to bolster ranks.” A nonprofit group that seeks to expand the availability of public guardians, the Guardian Community Trust, says the state is facing a crisis of scarcity, with anywhere from 2,800 to 3,800 people who need guardians each year unable to access one. A proposed bill in the state Legislature would create a system where the private companies could be overseen by the state agencies, creating a pipeline to ensure guardians are properly trained and vetted and have the support they need. --- brockton.wickedlocal.com, April 25 (Massachusetts) <https://is.gd/ZsHL1l>
18. “He had to fight NM system to save his stepmother.” Fourteen months, numerous trips from California to Las Cruces, more than \$50,000 in travel expenses and legal fees – and a man’s unwavering love for his stepmother, who had been in his life since he was 14 years old. --- abqjournal.com, April 21 (New Mexico) <https://is.gd/zazOKn>
19. “Half of Texas' Adult Guardianship Cases Violate Reporting Rules, Official Testifies.” A top Texas court official has testified that 43 percent of the state's adult guardianship cases in a 27-county sample didn't comply with the minimum paperwork-reporting requirements. --- sacurrent.com, April 23 (Texas) <https://is.gd/lg5Z7V>

LAWS & LEGISLATION

20. “Last of four who attacked UI student near Quad gets probation.” The last of four young men involved in a January attack on a University of Illinois student near the Quad was sentenced Thursday to two years of probation. - news-gazette.com, April 19 (Illinois) <https://is.gd/Vt4F8A>
21. “U.S. Dept. of Labor says Sterling nonprofit exploited 250 workers with disabilities.” The U.S. Department of Labor is forcing a Sterling nonprofit of exploiting nearly 250 workers, violating labor laws and occasionally paying

workers with gift cards instead of wages. --- abc57.com, April 25 (Illinois)
<https://is.gd/Qu1exN>

22. “Lawyers Say Arson Suspects Are Intellectually Disabled.” Lawyers for two men facing arson charges in a fire that destroyed a historic Maine schoolhouse say the men are intellectually disabled. --- mainepublic.org, April 24 (Maine) <https://is.gd/63M7dK>
23. “Settlement reached in police-custody death of man with Down syndrome.” The family of Robert Ethan Saylor, a man with Down syndrome who died after three off-duty Frederick County sheriff deputies forced him from a movie theater, have reached a settlement with the state of Maryland, the deputies and the management company of the shopping center where the theater is located. --- washingtonpost.com, April 24 (Maryland)
<https://is.gd/iD6fYx>
24. “New York assisted suicide bill draws fire from disability rights group.” Disability rights activists are speaking out in opposition to a proposal in New York that would legalize physician assisted suicide. --- catholicnewsagency.com, April 24 (New York) <https://is.gd/VtorRb>
25. “Wheelchair-accessibility mandate for car services advances.” The city's plan for more wheelchair-accessible car service took a step forward Friday, when a group dropped its legal fight against it. Arguing that the Taxi and Limousine Commission was overstepping its authority in setting accessibility requirements—and that their businesses would be devastated—black-car and livery operators had sought an injunction to block the rules. --- crainsnewyork.com, April 23 (New York)
<https://is.gd/WHznZz>
26. “‘Parents should not have to do this to get their children educated’.” When 12-year-old Madilyn Gers bounds off the school bus, it’s all smiles. She runs to her parents, and they wrap her in a hug. --- cincinnati.com, April 25 (Ohio) <https://is.gd/lj7BPv>

27. “What Care for the Criminally Insane Can Teach Us About Mental Health Treatment.” The historic Oregon State Hospital in Salem. Oregon’s model of intense care and supervision for the criminally insane is not cheap: Caring for a person judged to be guilty except for insanity costs between \$383,000 and \$437,000 annually, according to the Oregon Health Authority. --- pewtrusts.org, April 25 (Oregon) <https://is.gd/islasa>
28. “Hundreds set to rally at State House for disability rights.” On Wednesday morning, an effort to help those with disabilities will be underway at the State House. --- wistv.com, April 25 (South Carolina) <https://is.gd/RW1d1M>
29. “Smokies all-terrain wheelchair rules clarified.” All-terrain wheelchairs are giving more people access to the great outdoors. They're also rolling into a gray area in the Great Smoky Mountains where certain motorized vehicles are not allowed on many trails. --- wbir.com, April 20 (Tennessee) <https://is.gd/vaWEmS>
30. “Lawsuit: Inmates with Mental Illness at Walla Walla Locked in Cells 16 Hours A Day.” At the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla, inmates with mental illness are locked down in their cells for up to 16 hours a day, even if they pose little risk. That’s one of the allegations in a lawsuit Disability Rights Washington plans to file in federal court in Spokane on Monday. --- kuow.org, April 23 (Washington) <https://is.gd/qv12k9>
31. “DeVos Education Dept. Begins Dismissing Civil Rights Cases in Name of Efficiency.” The Education Department’s Office for Civil Rights has begun dismissing hundreds of civil rights complaints under a new protocol that allows investigators to disregard cases that are part of serial filings or that they consider burdensome to the office. --- nytimes.com, April 20 (Washington DC) <https://is.gd/mKQOAS>
32. “Honor disabilities-rights pioneers by shattering more glass ceilings.” Today, there are growing numbers of individuals with a disability who are beginning to break the glass ceiling. This is in no small part due to the opportunities created by those who came before them and the landmark

Americans with Disabilities Act. --- seattletimes.com, April 20 (Washington DC) <https://is.gd/J1ePMx>

STUDIES & STATISTICS

33. “CDC Finds Prevalence Rate for Autism Higher Than Previously Reported.” The rate of children diagnosed as autistic is higher than previously reported, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. --- themighty.com, April 26 <https://is.gd/weX96b>
34. “Here's why the apparent increase in autism spectrum disorders may be good for U.S. children.” The prevalence of autism spectrum disorder among American children continues to rise, new government data suggest. And that may be a good thing. Among 11 sites across the U.S. where records of 8-year-olds are scrutinized in detail, 1 in 59 kids was deemed to have ASD in 2014. That's up from 1 in 68 in 2012. --- latimes.com, April 26 <https://is.gd/SYj1f5>
35. “New Hub Resource: Discipline Disparities for Black Students, Boys, and Students with Disabilities.” “Discipline Disparities for Black Students, Boys, and Students with Disabilities” from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) analyses the latest school discipline data (2013-14) from the Department of Education’s Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC), five case studies of school districts that are reforming their school discipline practices and seven case studies of investigations conducted by the departments of Education and Justice into discrimination and disparities in school discipline. --- jjie.org, April 26 <https://is.gd/zNMRds>
36. “Feds Release New Stats on Restraint and Seclusion in Schools.” New data on nearly every public school in the nation shows that students with disabilities continue to be disciplined and experience restraint and seclusion at far higher rates than others. ---disabilitycoop.com, April 24

<https://is.gd/bsC4NH>

37. “8 Ways Childhood Neglect Affected Your Life.” Most people have experienced childhood neglect to one degree or another at some point during their lives. --- blogs.psychcentral.com April 24 <https://is.gd/BVb6Ow>
38. “Research reveals autism and schizophrenia share common traits.” New research at Swinburne has revealed a significant overlap in the traits associated with autism and schizophrenia. --- medicalxpress.com, April 24 <https://is.gd/JVb2Cp>
39. “People with Disabilities Like MD Actively Seek Work, Overcome Barriers, Survey Finds.” A national survey to identify how Americans with disabilities are coping with work and overcoming barriers to employment has found that, despite persistent challenges, their efforts are making a big difference. --- muscular dystrophy news.com, April 25 <https://is.gd/tsk69l>
40. “CBT Cost-Effective for Adolescents Declining Antidepressants.” Brief cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) in a primary care setting effectively reduces depression symptoms in adolescents age 12 to 18 who decline antidepressant therapy and significantly reduces costs by the second year, according to a study published in Pediatrics. --- psychiatryadvisor.com, April 23 <https://is.gd/loUyig>
41. “Mood Stabilizer Use Among Long-Term Care Patients Declines Following CMS Program.” Authors of an interrupted time-series analysis published in JAMA Internal Medicine report that the initiation of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' National Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes was associated with increased use of mood stabilizers among long-term care residents between 2009 and 2014. --- neurologyadvisor.com, April 20 <https://is.gd/h1Co0Z>
42. “How inflammation and gut bacteria influence autism.” A new study investigates the relationship between autism, the immune system, gastrointestinal issues, and gut bacteria. The story is a complex one with

many questions still remaining unanswered, but this latest project adds insight. --- medicalnewstoday.com, April 21 <https://is.gd/7iZ0xJ>

43. "Pioneering physician Asperger sent children to their deaths, study claims." Hans Asperger has been recognized for decades for his groundbreaking studies on child psychiatry and pediatrics. But the physician for whom Asperger's syndrome was named also actively cooperated with the Nazi regime's euthanasia program, according to a study published Thursday in the journal Molecular Autism. --- cnn.com, April 19 <https://is.gd/m21P2n>
44. "Many U.S. kids with brain injuries not getting needed rehab." Many children hospitalized in the U.S. for brain injuries don't receive all the rehabilitation services needed for them to potentially make a full recovery, a new study suggests. --- whtc.com, April 20 <https://is.gd/qFe6eV>
45. "Some Mutations Tied to Autism May Be Passed Down from Fathers." The findings go against previous studies that suggest mutations are inherited from mothers --- scientificamerican.com, April 19 <https://is.gd/xZezSo>
46. "Can Ketogenic Diet Treat Schizophrenia, Anxiety, and Depression?" Mental illness is concerning in any form, be it mild or completely debilitating. Medical research has led to the discovery of certain treatments for these disorders, particularly schizophrenia. However, a new breakthrough of using ketogenic diet has been made recently. The real question is, can ketogenic diet treat schizophrenia, depression, and anxiety? --- reportshealthcare.com, April 23 <https://is.gd/Knvtsv>
47. "Nasal spray of party drug shows promise as fast-acting antidepressant, researchers say." The latest clinical trial of esketamine, the nasal-spray form of the club drug ketamine, is boosting confidence among some psychiatrists that it could be a major advance in the treatment of suicidal depression. --- washingtonpost.com, April 20 <https://is.gd/rvHdby>

IMPROVED SUPPORTS

48. “How People with Learning Disabilities Handle Their Differences in The Workplace.” Most of us enter the workplace with somewhat of a healthy sense of our strengths and weaknesses—and I'd say that by the glut of self-improvement and leadership podcasts, books and courses available, thousands of us see ourselves as works in progress. --- forbes.com, April 23 <https://is.gd/DIAbcm>
49. “Training helps first responders connect with autistic community.” An interactive course for law enforcement and first responders had a very special focus in Madison County on Wednesday. --- wbr.com, April 25 (Alabama) <https://is.gd/rdl2HQ>
50. “We’re making headway in Alaska against child abuse. This is how.” Every child deserves to grow up in a safe and loving home. Childhood is a time for exploration and wonder, a time to go fishing with your family and splash your rain boots in a giant puddle. But for too many young Alaskans, these childhood joys are overshadowed by fears of living with abuse or neglect. -- - adn.com, April 20 (Alaska) <https://is.gd/aUlqa5>
51. “Advocates in special education push for changes in Conejo Valley.” Cindy Liu and Lee Ann Holland are no strangers to fiercely advocating for their kids — they are parents, after all. It’s in their nature. --- vcstar.com, April 20 (California) <https://is.gd/3tkCso>
52. “San Clemente lifeguards get \$3,000 beach wheelchair to improve coastal access for visitors.” Marine Safety Officer Ian Burton’s eyes lit up as he showed off a new beach wheelchair at Marine Safety Headquarters just north of San Clemente Beach pier. --- ocregister.com, April 23 (California) <https://is.gd/2D5W4e>

53. “Only 33 black students with disabilities in Denver met expectations on state tests.” Just 2 percent of black students with disabilities in Denver scored at grade-level or higher on state literacy and math tests last year. In raw numbers, that’s just 33 of the 1,641 black students with disabilities in the school district, according to Denver Public Schools data. --- chalkbeat.org, April 26 (Colorado) <https://is.gd/WX09Yp>
54. “Empower Card aims to keep residents with disabilities safe.” Keeping residents with cognitive disabilities safe is crucial for families, friends and first responders. The Empower Card Program has been developed with this in mind. --- shorelinetimes.com, April 24 (Connecticut) <https://is.gd/arXgDT>
55. “‘Heartless’: Mom Finds Discriminatory Letter Targeting Autistic Daughter.” A mother is enraged and heartbroken after a neighbor at The Plaza condo in Bal Harbour posted a discriminatory letter on her door targeting her daughter who has autism. --- nbcmiami.com, April 19 (Florida) <https://is.gd/fTr0d3>
56. “Nuestra Comunidad: Hispanic parents of autistic kids face challenges.” Ever since Gibrán Álvarez was diagnosed with autism at age three, the lives of his parents have been filled with challenges and the search for answers. -- ajc.com, April 20 (Georgia) <https://is.gd/n2mKND>
57. “Advocates Respond to Special Education Investigation at CPS.” It’s been a big week for Chicago Public Schools. The budget process for individual schools is starting much earlier than in previous years, elections for local school councils just wrapped up Thursday and the Illinois State Board of Education has finally presented findings on a months long investigation into CPS’ special education programming. --- chicagotonight.wttw.com, April 19 (Illinois) <https://is.gd/tMg3C2>
58. “State to offer alternate diplomas for students with disabilities.” Unimportant, not worth it, heartbroken: that’s how some students living with a disability say they feel under current state law that defines them as dropouts. A new Indiana law will get rid of that definition. ---

tristatehomepage.com, April 20 (Indiana) <https://is.gd/bg1HqW>

59. "Special education instructors scarce." Attending employment fairs wasn't always part of Jada Conner's job, but in recent years it's become routine. Conner is director of special education for Northwest Allen County Schools. She started attending job fairs at area colleges after noticing that applications for open positions weren't coming in as fast as they used to – especially for school psychologists and speech pathologists. --- journalgazette.net, April 22 (Indiana) <https://is.gd/vUSEoB>
60. "Urbandale Parents Say Sudden Change Sets Up Special Education Students to Fail." Instead of counting down the days to summer fun summer fun, some Urbandale parents like Nicole Schwegler are feeling frustrated. "I was hurt, I was angry, I was confused and I was mad," said the mother of three children within Urbandale Community School District. --- whotv.com, April 25 (Iowa) <https://is.gd/OAaQJt>
61. "Students with disabilities experience not only low expectations, but too often, none at all." One student who dreams of becoming a doctor is told not to bother taking a science class because "doctor" is pretty unlikely for him. Unlike every other student, his classes are subject to the approval of a committee. Why? Because he is a student with disabilities. --- courier-journal.com, April 20 (Kentucky) <https://is.gd/oSno6k>
62. "Md.'s psychiatric bed shortage detrimental to patients and community." Without access to treatment, people with a severe psychiatric illness, such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, fall prey to their psychosis and may engage in a range of illegal behaviors, from public urination to violent offenses. --- baltimoresun.com, April 24 (Maryland) <https://is.gd/ula7fz>
63. "Disability advocates combat abuse of handicapped parking spots." Advocates for people with disabilities are doing their parts to stop drivers from parking in handicapped parking spots illegally. --- newjersey.news12.com, April 24 (New Jersey) <https://is.gd/QovX7E>

64. “Legislators express reservations over Child Protective Services proposal.” A plan by Erie County administrators to address low wages in Child Protective Services has received a chilly reception from county lawmakers. "You put a plan together and didn't reach out to people affected and say, 'Are we on the right road here? Is this going to fly?' " said Legislator Thomas Loughran, D-Amherst. --- [buffalonews.com](https://is.gd/s5ycwl), April 23 (New York) <https://is.gd/s5ycwl>
65. “North Las Vegas school asks special education students to stay home.” Several parents at Elizondo Elementary School received last minute phone calls from the school Friday asking them to keep their students out of school due to a staffing shortage in special education classrooms. --- [ktnv.com](https://is.gd/PDRqtt), April 20 (Nevada) <https://is.gd/PDRqtt>
66. “Exploring What It Means to Lead "Intelligent Lives".” The task of trying to dismantle lingering stereotypes about people with intellectual disabilities — and to convey how those stereotypes can profoundly shape a person’s access to education, to jobs, to a fulfilling life — begins with acknowledging the inherent inadequacy of the very language of the issue itself. --- [nhmagazine.com](https://is.gd/xP4PhV), April 22 (New Hampshire) <https://is.gd/xP4PhV>
67. “State Office Helping People with Disabilities Faces Deficit.” The New Hampshire Department of Education says a division that helps people with disabilities find and keep jobs spent millions more than it took in. --- [usnews.com](https://is.gd/Ev2ABA), April 20 (New Hampshire) <https://is.gd/Ev2ABA>
68. “CAUSE initiative allowing those with disabilities to compete and grow as student-athletes.” A new initiative at Daemen College is helping promote physical exercise and sportsmanship. CAUSE (Center for Allied and Unified Sports Exercise) was introduced this Fall and pairs student-athletes and their classmates at Daemen College with younger athletes who suffer from some sort of social or physical disability. --- [wkbw.com](https://is.gd/PDFKBu), April 20 (New York) <https://is.gd/PDFKBu>
69. “New York City Launches Task Force on Mentally Ill After Shootings.” Two weeks after New York Police Department officers fatally shot a mentally

disturbed man they thought was armed with a gun, Mayor Bill de Blasio launched a task force aimed at improving city responses to emergencies involving the mentally ill. --- wsj.com, April 19 (New York)

<https://is.gd/HEG6g7>

70. “Meet up group for autistic adults launching in York.” A new group is being launched in York for autistic adults. York's Autistic Meet Up Group (YAM) has been set up by autistic adults with the support of the City of York Council and the Autism Inclusive Communities Group. --- minsterfm.com, April 22 (New York) <https://is.gd/gD9J9t>
71. “For disabled man who inspires others, ‘Be not afraid’ is a way of life.” When the Greater Watertown-North Country Chamber of Commerce presented Howard W. Ganter with the Israel A. Shapiro Award in February, he gave credit to someone who inspired him to be a better community member. --- watertowndailytimes.com, April 22 (New York) <https://is.gd/EZZluC>
72. “Protect your loved ones and report elder abuse.” Let’s have a real conversation, no fluff just the facts. In 2017, Putnam County had 70 new cases with elder victims, 54 through the Elder Victim Ministry program at Crime Victim Services and 16 through Putnam County Adult Protective Services. --- putnamsentinel.com April 20 (Ohio) <https://is.gd/z6MooR>
73. “Autistic Students Excelling in Classroom but Failing in Job Interviews.” It's an unfortunate academic statistic. Many college students affected by autism graduate with a very high grade point average, but as many as 85 percent are unemployed. --- erietvnews.com, April 20 (Pennsylvania) <https://is.gd/rGPFx2>
74. “K-9 program specializes in tracking missing autistic children.” Children with autism are four times more likely to wander off, but a new canine search and rescue initiative in the Upstate could help law enforcement officers find missing autistic children faster. --- wspa.com, April 26 (South Carolina)

<https://is.gd/1O3OgK>

75. “Mark's Park: Autism park in Collierville a longtime labor of love.” Joe and Gayle Ennis bought their property on Springmont Trail in Collierville more than a decade ago with several objectives in mind. --- commercialappeal.com, April 22 (Tennessee) <https://is.gd/tQHjJn>
76. “New program aims to bridge gap between first responders, people with disabilities.” Chattanooga's police and fire departments partnered with the Chattanooga Autism Center to develop a registry for people with cognitive and developmental disabilities first responders can access. --- timesfreepress.com, April 22 (Tennessee) <https://is.gd/zF0tMd>
77. “Texas unveils special education fix after denying services.” Texas has unveiled a formal plan to overhaul special education statewide, after federal officials found that services were for years illegally denied to students with disabilities. --- washingtonpost.com, April 24 (Texas) <https://is.gd/Nau65D>
78. “Teen starts nationwide group to help autistic brother and others find friends.” It started out as a way to help her brother, and now, it's become so much more than that. Now one sister's efforts have made an impact far more than she could ever imagine. --- kfdi.com, April 24 (Texas) <https://is.gd/q199S9>
79. “This young entrepreneur with Down syndrome helped President Bush with sweet sock tribute to Barbara.” At former first lady Barbara Bush’s funeral, President George H. W. Bush wore book-theme socks, a sweet gesture to remember his late wife’s devotion to literacy. --- click2houston.com, April 25 (Texas) <https://is.gd/djT7wP>
80. “Texas Disability Group Wants Victims’ Voices Heard in Gun Debate.” A disability rights group in Texas sent out a survey last month, trying to figure out how many of its members became disabled by gun violence. The group, ADAPT of Texas, says it’s an effort to collect data that will help

inform Texas lawmakers about how they should legislate guns. ---
wamu.org, April 20 (Texas) <https://is.gd/VrOm83>

81. “Complaint: Uptown bus stop placement will hurt seniors, handicapped. A local activist has filed a complaint with the Federal Transit Administration, saying that a rapid bus line spearheaded by the Uptown management district in the tony Galleria area of the city will hurt the handicapped population because of a behind-closed-doors decision to move a transit stop away from where a bus stop has traditionally been. ---
texasmonitor.org, April 20 (Texas) <https://is.gd/N6nN7g>
82. “Milwaukee couple looking to open first group home for LGBT youth in Wisconsin.” A local couple is hoping to change lives this fall when they plan to open a group home specifically for LGBT youth. It will be the first of its kind in the state.---cbs58.com, April 21 (Wisconsin) <https://is.gd/GG1OM6>

INTERNATIONAL

83. “Fairer wages for Aussies with disabilities.” Working Australians with disabilities should get fairer a pay deal after the Fair Work Commission ordered a new classification and wage structure to address the loopholes in the existing framework. --- news.com.au, April 23 (Australia)
<https://is.gd/D5gbAa>
84. “More go straight from psychiatric hospital into homelessness.” When Sonia and Linda Berton picked up their sister Katherine* from the psychiatric hospital and moved her into a hotel room in Melbourne’s north, they tried to make it safe. --- theage.com.au, April 21 (Australia)
<https://is.gd/FMDhBV>
85. “Autistic boy, 11, hit and killed by train after running away from carer.” An 11-year-old autistic boy who ran away from his carer while at the shops in

- Sydney's south has been found dead after being hit by a train. ---
theguardian.com, April 22 (Australia) <https://is.gd/UjMJFb>
86. "Girls with autism flying under the radar but new guidelines could help doctors with diagnosis." Most people tend to think of autism as a disorder that affects boys and men, but psychologists now believe that girls with autism may simply be better at hiding in plain sight. ---
radioaustralia.net.au, April 24 (Australia) <https://is.gd/AxHrcn>
87. "Hotline for vulnerable Albertans coming in a matter of weeks." A crisis line to report concerns about vulnerable Albertans and help them get the supports they need will be up and running in a matter of weeks. ---
edmontonsun.com, April 23 (Canada) <https://is.gd/VIs2j9>
88. "Autism not associated with violence, advocates say." Reports the man connected to Monday's van rampage on Yonge St. may suffer from Asperger syndrome, have shaken advocates in Ontario's autism community. ---
thestar.com, April 26 (Canada) <https://is.gd/v7HAKZ>
89. "GCC hosts job fair for people with disabilities." The Guam Community College on Friday morning hosted the second annual GCC Job Fair for Persons with Disabilities, in partnership with Guam Department of Labor, Guam Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities and Pacific Human Resource Services. ---
guampdn.com, April 20 (Guam) <https://is.gd/648d8N>
90. "Meerpet: Woman, daughter commit suicide." A 45-year-old mentally depressed government teacher and her 24-year-old mentally retarded daughter allegedly committed suicide at Meerpet. ---
deccanchronicle.com, April 25 (India) <https://is.gd/eAjRaE>
91. "Thanjavur: Four life terms for man abusing mentally-ill minor." In a very traumatic case, a Mahila court here on Tuesday sentenced Subramanian (50) of Sivakollai near Pattukottai to undergo four life imprisonments for sexually abusing his own mentally challenged 17-year-old daughter and

made her pregnant and another six years imprisonment for threatening her daughter not to reveal it to others lest he will kill her. ---
deccanchronicle.com, April 26 (India) <https://is.gd/UTurnw>

92. “Let’s Get Physical | Inclusion Is Very Critical for All Vulnerable Persons.” In the race of life, we are all afforded advantages and disadvantages that fuel or de-energise us along our journey. For me, the journey of disability has been a very rough one, as I have had to move from being physically fit to being disabled at different stages in life. --- jamaica-gleaner.com, April 25 (Jamaica) <https://is.gd/xqPGii>
93. “Care facility that placed 'I'm a liar' tag on disabled woman hit with suspension order.” The operator of a home here for the disabled has been hit with a six-month business suspension over abuse that included placing a card saying "I'm a liar" around the neck of an intellectually disabled resident. --- mainichi.jp, April 21 (Japan) <https://is.gd/w4qRyW>
94. “Ashram operator arrested for sexually abusing disabled girls.” Police has arrested a religious ashram operator in Chitwan district on charge of sexually abusing physically disabled women. ---
kathmandupost.ekantipur.com, April 21 (Nepal) <https://is.gd/Rmtimp>
95. “Study Finds Hundreds of Mentally Ill and Dementia Patients Euthanized Without Consent.” An important study was published in the Journal BMC Medical Ethics (March 5) examining nine euthanasia deaths of people with intellectual disabilities in the Netherlands. --- lifenews.com, April 20 (Netherlands) <https://is.gd/n8uTC3>
96. “Autistic New Zealand woman changes name and flies to India without telling family.” The father of an autistic woman who secretly got a new passport and followed her boyfriend to northern India is demanding to know how she managed to sneak out of New Zealand. --- news.com.au, April 24 (New Zealand) <https://is.gd/HBaxH7>

97. “Teenager's death: Antipsychotic drug 'properly prescribed'.” It was appropriate for a teenager to be given the anti-psychotic drug that led to his death, a coroner has said. Oliver McGowan, 18, from Bristol, had mild autism and epilepsy and was being treated for a seizure at Southmead Hospital in October 2016 when he was given olanzapine to sedate him. --- [bbc.com](https://is.gd/bpU2Qi), April 20 (UK) <https://is.gd/bpU2Qi>
98. “Hollyoaks casts first autistic actress on mainstream British TV.” Actress Talia Grant has become the first person diagnosed with autism to be cast in a British TV drama after landing a role in Hollyoaks. --- [theweek.co.uk](https://is.gd/RKTGcs), April 24 (UK) <https://is.gd/RKTGcs>

MISCELLANEOUS

99. “Identifying children with intellectual disability.” Mental retardation (MR) is a developmental disability that results in an individual showing far-below-average intelligence or mental ability and a lack of skills necessary for everyday life. --- [ejinsight.com](https://is.gd/x7CUVN), April 20 <https://is.gd/x7CUVN>
100. “Maternity Photos of People with Disabilities Hardly Existed, So This Woman Fixed the Gap.” Christa Couture knows that representation is powerful. So when she couldn't find any maternity photos depicting women with disabilities, she decided to make her own. Couture is an amputee with one leg, which she lost during her battle with cancer. --- [bustle.com](https://is.gd/jVEzk3), April 24 <https://is.gd/jVEzk3>