

# Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of August 10 to August 17, 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 at the end. The categories are: *Abuse and Neglect, Accidents involving People with Disabilities, Laws & Legislation, Improved Supports, and Miscellaneous.*

This week's collection of articles has, sadly, the usual array of articles. Check the categories below for a guide. The categories are indicated by type, and the number of the article.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Visit our website at [www.disabilityandabuse.org](http://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>

Emotional/Verbal Abuse: 19, 42 (by KFC employees)

Sexual Assault: 9, 14, 16, 18, 20, 23, 24, 25, 56, 59, 60, 61

Physical Abuse: 2, 4, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17

Murder: 1, 8, 54          Attempted murder: 7

Forced group disrobing: 5 (by DHS investigators)

Restraint: 27, 62

Financial abuse: 15

**Winners of most egregious award:** 29: Judge jails rape victim who has mental illness; 68: Mike Pompeo ignores the needs of special education students who are the children of diplomats

**Winner of Good News award:** 9: Willowbrook Creek Church must pay over \$3 million for the sexual abuse of children with disabilities in their care; 37: the ADA is recognized on its 28<sup>th</sup> birthday!

Good News: 21: Man, with disability fights off attacker.

Bad News: 24: Councilman cannot be removed from office despite sexual assault of 14-year-old girl with disabilities; 28: nursing homes continue to drug their patients as it makes it “easier to control” them.

### **Who dun it?**

Family:16

Carers: 1, 4, 6, 10, 11, 12, 18, 23

School personnel: 17, 25

Law enforcement: 2, 13, 27

### **ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

1. Accusations of wrongful death & forged medical records at Mission Hills Health Care nursing home - According to the lawsuit, during his stay, he contracted scabies seven times and contracted multiple urinary tract infections. The court paperwork also reports that one time he was found by a nurse face down on the floor and he was crying that he hit his head in the fall. However, the suit reveals that he was never taken to the hospital and his family was never called. - ABC News 10 – August 9 ,2018 – (California) - <https://is.gd/AofLNK>
2. 76-year-old deaf woman sues Alameda County sheriff’s deputy for rough arrest - A deaf 76-year-old woman accused an Alameda County Sheriff’s Office deputy of excessive force during an alleged jaywalking incident last year, claiming the deputy “violently threw” her to the ground and

handcuffed her to an ambulance while she was unconscious. – San Francisco Chronicle – August 16, 2018 – (California) - <https://is.gd/GwOYs9>

3. Autistic College Student's Fist Bump and Selfie Turn into Unbelievable Nightmare - Marcus, who faces a few extra challenges in life – cerebral palsy, autism and a shunt on his brain to relieve fluid pressure – is now facing the challenge of sexual harassment claims by two female students. – CBN News – August 15, 2018 – (California) - <https://is.gd/11faBX>
4. Caretaker accused of torture of disabled woman - Court documents say one caretaker, Gabriel Monsibais, admitted to investigators that in 2016, he not only poured hot water on Perkins' back, but also beat her to keep her in control. Monsibais faces three felony charges including torture and assault and is due back in court in September. – KGET – August 11, 2018 – (California) - <https://is.gd/qQwBu3>
5. Strip-search lawsuit against Pueblo Regional Center settled for \$1 million- The lawsuit was filed after a March 25, 2015, incident in which DHS investigators conducted mandatory strip searches of about 60 developmentally disabled patients at the Pueblo center. – The Pueblo Chieftain – August 10, 2018 – (Colorado) - <https://is.gd/pgVZYK>
6. Former Longmont nursing home staffer arrested after allegations of abuse arise - Police began investigating Chambers, who worked at Life Care Center, 2451 Pratt St., on June 7 after Stephen DeBelle, the facility director, found an anonymous note under his door that alleged Chambers hit residents and put residents' soiled underwear in their faces, according to an arrest affidavit. – Times Call – August 14, 2018 – (Colorado) - <https://is.gd/EMNkw4>

7. Woman charged with stabbing man in wheelchair - A local woman was arrested after police said she stabbed a man in a wheelchair at McLevy Green Wednesday afternoon. – CT Post – August 10, 2018 – (Connecticut) - <https://is.gd/oSHfeu>
  
8. Man's death at group home illustrates challenges of meting out justice when suspect has intellectual disability- The homicide case, among hundreds in Chicago last year, was complicated from the start because of the suspect's intellectual disabilities. – Chicago Tribune – August 14, 2018 – (Illinois) <https://is.gd/XY7mDA>
  
9. Willow Creek Volunteer Sexually Abused Disabled Children: Lawsuit - Willow Creek Community Church paid upwards of \$3 million to settle two separate lawsuits connected to the sexual abuse of two developmentally disabled boys by a church volunteer. – Algonquin Patch – August 14, 2018 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/YXFblw>
  
10. Livonia psychiatric patient abuse cases move to circuit court - Three men charged with felonies in the alleged abuse of three patients at a Livonia psychiatric clinic will have their cases heard in Wayne County Circuit Court. – Hometown Life – August 16, 2018 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/OlyCss>
  
11. Group home owner, 4 workers, charged in beating of resident, prosecutors say - The owner of an Indianapolis group home for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and four workers have been charged in the beating of a resident that was caught on video, prosecutors say. – Indy Star – August 15, 2018 – (Indianapolis)- <https://is.gd/CEW6rX>

12. Police: Five Arrested for Abuse at Home for Disabled People - Investigators say Amelia Hagedorn -- the owner of Indianapolis-based Safe Journey LLC -- along with three of her employees -- have been charged with battery resulting in bodily injury to a disabled person. – WIBC – August 15, 2018 – (Indianapolis) - <https://is.gd/sDirzt>
  
13. Shreveport deputy used stun gun on non-verbal autistic boy, lawsuit says - A federal lawsuit alleges that a Louisiana sheriff's deputy on school duty shocked a non-verbal, autistic 10th-grader with a stun gun, then left him lying in his own urine until an emergency crew arrived 13 minutes later. – Nola Times – August 11, 2018 – (Louisiana) - <https://is.gd/haVhDN>
  
14. 14-year-old accused of raping juvenile with mental disability - Deputies in Assumption Parish have charged a 14-year-old with raping another teen with a mental disability. – WBRZ – August 15, 2018 – (Louisiana) - <https://is.gd/NqzSzS>
  
15. Lawsuit claims elderly patient gave Brunswick nurse nearly \$600,000 - Brunswick nurse who has been charged with financial crimes had received more than half a million dollars from an elderly patient, according to a lawsuit that was settled while the criminal investigation was underway. – Times Record – August 16, 2018 – (Maine) - <https://is.gd/nCS5d9>
  
16. Battle Creek Man Could Get Life in Prison For 2008 Rape of Disabled Child - Swarnes was identified after evidence collected from the young girl was submitted for DNA testing in 2016. Following the test, investigators interviewed him and he told them he was staying with family when he woke up the young girl, who's developmentally disabled. He admitted that

he was having sex with her during that encounter. – WBCK- August 16, 2018 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/y4EBJr>

17. Ex-special education worker sentenced in abuse case - A former Michigan special education teacher's assistant has been sentenced to a year of probation after being convicted of assault and battery in connection with alleged student abuse. – The Detroit News – August 17, 2018 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/8WXSdP>

18. Care Attendant Accused of Abusing 70-Year-Old Vulnerable Adult - A personal care attendant is accused of sexually abusing a 70-year-old vulnerable adult earlier this year at a south metro senior care center. – WCCO Channel 4 – August 15, 2018 – (Minneapolis) - <https://is.gd/5qlPVq>

19. St. Cloud adult foster home closed due to maltreatment of residents - he Maltreatment Investigation Memorandum summarizes interviews with foster residents who reported being called names such as "retard," "cripple" and "queer." The residents had diagnoses that included personality disorder, schizophrenia and major depression. – SC Times – August 10, 2018 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/PQdDwW>

20. Wanted: Man accused in sexual assault of a vulnerable adult in George County - A man accused of sexually assaulting a vulnerable adult has failed to turn himself in, Sheriff Keith Havard said. – Sun Herald – August 15, 2018 – (Mississippi) - <https://is.gd/XDepqa>

21. Handicapped man pistol whips alleged attacker in southwest OKC - A handicapped man fought off a person accused of trying to rob him in his

own apartment.- Fox 25 News- August 13, 2018 – (Oklahoma) - <https://is.gd/BUGxdb>

22. Officials report Wonderland Charter School discriminated against special education student - A new report details health code and ethics violations against a former Centre County charter school -- which closed its doors last month. – WJAC- August 14, 2018 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/m5lLzw>

23. Possible sexual assault at Mtn. Laurel Nursing Home - According to a police report on Tuesday, the Lawrence Township Police Department say a possible sexual assault occurred at Mountain Laurel Nursing Home involving multiple patients at the nursing home and an outside individual. – WTAJ – August 16, 2018 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/7w4H5W>

24. Councilman accused of child sex assault can't be forced from office - Kittanning Council does not have the authority to remove a councilman from office despite charges he engaged in sexual contact with a disabled 14-year-old, Council President Kim Chiesa said Friday. – Trib Live - August 10, 2018 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/lGqzag>

25. Special education teacher arrested for sexual battery of teen, police say - Police identified Dodson as a special education teacher and coach at Havenview Middle School, where the girl attended. He drove the girl to school regularly. Police also said Dodson is related to the victim. – Action News 5- August 15, 2018 – (Tennessee) - <https://is.gd/t6d2uu>  
(Not sure victim had disability)

26. Grand jury indicts woman in elder abuse case - A Maury County woman was arrested this month after allegedly abusing her elderly parent in a Mt. Pleasant nursing home. – The Daily Herald – August 13, 2018 – (Tennessee) - <https://is.gd/MUsbPU>
27. Denton ISD Faces Scrutiny After Officer Seen Handcuffing, Pinning Down Autistic Child - A North Texas school district is under scrutiny before the start of the new school year after a newly-released video shows how a resource officer handled an autistic child in April. – CBS 11 News – August 11, 2018 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/vRzxt>
28. Why are nursing homes drugging dementia patients without their consent? - It helps control the residents, and institutions are rarely punished. – Washington Post – August 10, 2018 – (D.C.) – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/0vHDp5> (Was investigated across six states, Texas mentioned first)
29. Former Houston Judge Disciplined for Jailing Mentally Ill Rape Victim Before Trial - A special court of review has [approved](#) the public admonishment of a former Houston state district court judge who ordered a mentally ill sexual assault victim jailed in order to secure her testimony at trial, a move that led to the woman being attacked by an inmate while in custody. – Texas Lawyer – August 14, 2018 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/WwUrdc>

## GUARDIANSHIP

30. Otero/Crowley picked for pilot of guardianship program - The Initial Memorandum of Understanding with the Judicial Branch has been executed and critical operating documents including by-laws and interim fundraising guidelines are established. They are actively seeking funding

sources. The Office of Public Guardianship is expected to begin offering services by the end of 2018. The Office of Public Guardianship will be used only when help cannot be found among family and friends. – La Junta Tribune – August 14, 2018 – (Colorado) - <https://is.gd/BsDKGI>

31. The Uniform Guardianship, Conservatorship, and other Protective Arrangements Act (UGCOPAA) - (UGCOPAA) is a comprehensive guardianship statute for the twenty-first century. It was drafted with extensive input from experienced guardianship judges and organizations that advocate for guardianship reform. (Video)- Uniform Law Commission – (No Date) – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/D3PB3J>

32. Our View: Legislature should pass Pashinski’s grandparents’ guardianship bill - State Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski has taken an important step toward addressing one of its often-overlooked tolls. [House Bill 1539](#), of which Pashinski is prime sponsor, would grant grandparents temporary guardianship of their grandchildren when the youngsters’ parents become unable to care for them due to addiction issues. -Times Leader- August 9, 2018 – Pennsylvania- <https://is.gd/03vBrg>

33. SCOV Law Blog: Determining ‘standing’ in a guardianship case - What exactly is an “interested person” in the context of a guardianship for a developmentally disabled adult? I’m glad you asked because it just so happens that’s just what SCOV considers in this case. – VT Digger – August 10, 2018 – (Vermont) - <https://is.gd/jD8wct>

## LAWS & LEGISLATIONS

34. Hospital 'mercy killing' reflects common fears of aging, suffering-  
The [Medical Aid in Dying Act](#), sponsored in the Assembly by Amy Paulin, D-

Scarsdale, would allow a mentally competent, terminally ill patient, believed to have less than six months to live, to access lethal medication to end his or her life. The patient would have to self-administer the prescription, but would not have to ever use it. – Lohud – August 15, 2018 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/N3K1xZ>

## STUDIES & STATISTICS

35. Cognitive training can reduce depressive symptoms in individuals with traumatic brain injury - Cognitive training can reduce depressive symptoms in patients with traumatic brain injury, according to new research published in [Human Brain Mapping](#). - PsyPost – August 11 2018 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/tOA6Ag>

36. More UK Children with ADHD Should Be Given Ritalin, Say Researchers - Evidence shows 5% of children suffer from the behavioural disorder, but only one in 10 are receiving medical treatment. – Care Appointments – August 8, 2018 – (United Kingdom) <https://is.gd/BRJRdU>

## IMPROVED SUPPORTS

37. Disability Rights Are Civil Rights: Inside the Cap's New Disability Justice Initiative - On July 26th, the 28th anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), CAP launched a major new project: The Disability Justice Initiative. – Pacific Standard – (D.C.) - <https://is.gd/CRF3ld>

38. For intellectually challenged, having a best buddy is comforting- Founded almost 30 years ago, Best Buddies is designed for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. – News Press – August 13, 2018 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/SaJMOF>

39. Registration and voting aids available to the elderly and the handicapped - Vermilion County residents who, due to a disability, are unable to appear in person to register to vote may contact the County Clerk's Voter Registration Hotline at 217-554-1915 for assistance. "The office can arrange for in-home registration services," County Clerk Cathy Jenkins said. – The Independent News – August 13, 2018 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/XCmIYZ>
40. 'BOOST-3' Trial Seeks to Improve Outcomes After Severe Traumatic Brain Injury - Treatment based on brain tissue oxygen levels might help patients have better recoveries. A new clinical coordinating center will help researchers find out. – M Health Lab – August 15, 2018 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/mNXPIQ>
41. In Anoka County, new theater program gives the stage to children with special needs - Actors from Northern Starz Children's Theatre in Ramsey are participating for the first time in a national theater program for young people with special needs. – Star Tribune – August 10, 2018 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/XusBo4>
42. Byram KFC incident leads to pledge for sensitivity training at 270 restaurants across US - Cole, who is deaf but can read lips, said she was made of fun of by KFC employees while trying to order food at the drive-thru. – Clarion Ledger – August 9, 2018 – (Mississippi) - <https://is.gd/ZU4AoN>
43. How Horse Therapy Benefits Children with Special Needs - Children with special needs are getting physical therapy with the help of horses,

benefiting both physically and emotionally. – CBS – August 14, 2018 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/QAeLCQ>

44. Tragic ending for autistic boy renews calls to expand Project Lifesaver - For those prone to wandering, bracelet technology could save lives – Times Union – August 10, 2018 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/BTo2NB>

45. Dubois community, Pittsburgh Pirates gather to open field for special needs youth - The Dubois community came together today for a special ribbon cutting ceremony for the Rose and Dennis Heindl Memorial Field. The field is designed for kids with special needs. The stadium includes turf, solid squares for bases and is wheel chair accessible. – WJAC- August 12, 2018 – (Pennsylvania) -- <https://is.gd/6GQWhs>

46. Deaf community demanding answers from CCISD - An emergency town hall meeting was called this weekend at the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center regarding the use of interpreters for hearing impaired teachers employed by CCISD. – KRISTV – August 13, 2018 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/Bh17We>

47. Program for deaf students expanding - Ector County Regional Day School Program for the Deaf is expanding to Burleson Elementary and Bowie Middle schools this fall. - Odessa American- August 11, 2018 (Texas) - <https://is.gd/TuCXzd>

48. Hockinson special-ed classroom stays put- The parents said it felt like their students were being segregated from the general population of the school. Sandra Sermone, one of the parents to speak out at the meeting, said she was concerned about uncovered walkways, longer distances to other

classrooms and therapeutic services, and the possibility that special education students would be dropped off from the bus right by their classroom, which she felt would add more of a divide between the special education students and rest of the school. – The Columbian – August 12, 2018 – (Washington) - <https://is.gd/yM0xeK>

49.State releases video to help bankers spot elder financial abuse -Attorney General Brad Schimel released a new training video Tuesday to educate tellers and other bank professionals on how to spot financial elder abuse and how to report it. – Fox 11 News- August 14, 2018 – (Wisconsin) - <https://is.gd/xQ5lnW>

50.Drug approval could boost research on marijuana treatment for autism - The United States has approved, for the first time, a compound derived from marijuana to treat certain types of epilepsy. The ruling may spell good news for autism research. – Spectrum – August 16, 2018 – (Nationwide Research multiple sites) - <https://is.gd/MByo1Y>

## INTERNATIONAL

51.Trinity Grammar abuse survivor paid out over former 'hero' teacher - Melbourne private school Trinity Grammar has paid out \$500,000 to a former student sexually abused by a teacher the school heads had labelled a “hero”. – The Age – August 15, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/WJFIgy>

52.Sydney nursing assistant likely to escape jail for violent attack on elderly patient - A nursing assistant who assaulted an elderly dementia patient appears to have avoided jail, despite the extreme violence. 9News has obtained the confronting vision of the attack in the Poplars Nursing Home

at North Epping a year ago. – 9 News – August 15, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/z7Vnkm>

53. Sentencing in vicious attack on Saskatoon wheelchair user - A man has been sentenced to seven years in prison for a vicious attack on a Saskatoon wheelchair user. – Global News – August 15, 2018 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/XJ3kWW>

54. Abuse found at Calgary nursing home after 97-year-old woman broke leg when dropped - Tannis Snukal, 97, died less than a month after she broke her leg. Only one staff member was present during the senior's bath despite a requirement that two people be on hand for transfers between wheelchair and bath. – CBC News – August 16, 2018 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/FQsg6D>

55. Believed to be mentally ill, man tied to pole, beaten by a mob - Instead of booking the mob and getting him help as mandated in Mental Healthcare Act, the cops gave him clothes and let him go. – Pune Mirror – August 12, 2018 – (India) - <https://punemirror.indiatimes.com/pune/cover-story/believed-to-be-mentally-ill-man-tied-to-pole-beaten-by-a-mob/articleshow/65371783.cms>  
(shortened URL not available)

56. Held for 'raping' mentally retarded girl - A 19-year-old mentally retarded girl was repeatedly raped allegedly by a 59-year-old person for a long time in Thatitooru area under the Bheemili police station limits in the city. The Hindu Times – August 12, 2018 – (India) - <https://is.gd/P1kSsH>

57. Special needs: 'We love our home, but it can feel like a prison' - Jane Johnstone is sole carer for her two sons, whose complex needs sometimes

keep her up all night – The Irish Times – August 14, 2018 – (Ireland)  
<https://is.gd/CbJSAe>

58. School discriminated against expelled autistic boy, judge rules- Tribunal judge says aggressive behaviour is not a choice for children with autism- The Guardian – August 14, 2018 – (London) - <https://is.gd/Vu8jde>

59. Youths gang rape disabled woman - A 27-year-old slow learner is believed to have been raped by a group of men in some undergrowth in Kampung Padang, Bayan Lepas here. Her family members suspected something amiss when they found her at the site with the group at 12.33am on Aug 4. – Star Online – August 12, 2018 – (Malaysia) - <https://is.gd/H4AhRf>

60. Rapist attacked disabled neighbour in her own home - David Reid, 59, from Edinburgh, raped the woman, who has arthritis and walks with a stick, in her own home. – Edinburgh News – August 17, 2018 – (Scotland) - <https://is.gd/IQvCjA>

61. Supreme Court Upholds Almeria Defendant's Five Year Jail Sentence For Sex Assault On Disabled Woman - Spain's Supreme Court has ruled that a defendant who appealed against a five year jail term for sexually assaulting a woman with mental disabilities will still serve his prison sentence. – Sol Times – August 16, 2018 – (Spain) - <https://is.gd/LRcT15>

62. Case settled for child who was physically restrained at private special school - The abuse team at Leigh Day have recently reached an out-of-court settlement on behalf of a 16-year-old boy with Autism and Down's Syndrome whose family allege was subjected to excessive and unreasonable physical restraint at a private residential school for children

with learning disabilities. – Lexology- August 13, 2018 - (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/6MVRfc>

63. Mum who has fostered 67 kids is blacklisted - because of false assault claims - Church-going Diane Boyle and husband Karl, who have been carers for 17 years, are taking their local authority to a tribunal after being deemed unfit to foster- Mirror – August 12, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/RTXcEE>

64. UK scheme will help vulnerable offenders address root causes - The UK will launch a pilot scheme to help vulnerable offenders with mental health, alcohol and substance abuse issues address the underlying causes of their offending. – Government Europa – August 13, 2018- (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/dzhloH>

65. Yemen struggles to enforce disability rights laws amid conflict - here are laws that protect the rights of the disabled in the country, but there are challenges to enforcing them because of the ongoing conflict.- Aljazeera – August 15, 2018 – (Yemen) - <https://is.gd/NSkRNL>

## MISCELLANEOUS

66. Disability Rights Advocate Brings Message of Resilience to Fresno - On April 13th 1997, Jocelyn Dettloff's life changed forever. On a camping trip in Sub-Saharan Africa, an accident left her paralyzed. It also put her life on a new path, inspiring others, as she describes in her book [“It Rained in the Desert: One Woman's Story of Spirit and Resilience”](#) – All Things Consider, NPR- August 14, 2018 – (California) - <https://is.gd/GPGpC3>

67. Boy with autism may lose his therapy ducks after neighbor complaints - Dylan has formed a bond with the ducks, and Mark Dyke said the animals help his son regulate his emotions, especially after a stressful day. – M Live – August 11, 2018 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/P9jjRn>

68. Pompeo Ignores Plea from Diplomats with Children with Special Needs - State Department diplomats who have children with disabilities and mental health issues say U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has been ignoring their pleas for help in a struggle they've been waging for more than a year now against the erosion of their medical and education benefits. – Foreign Policy - August 14, 2018 – (National) - <https://is.gd/VdVMjx>