

Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of August 24 to August 31, 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*, *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.

Types of Abuse and Neglect:

Sexual Assault: 5, 10, 13, 17, 18, 54

Physical Abuse: 1, 2, 8 (leading to closing the home); 12, 15, 19, 20, 22, 46

Human trafficking: 14

Neglect: 1, 3

Neglected to death: 6

Murder: 11

Restraint & Seclusion: 7 (for failing a test); 24 (It's OK because it's the law); 26 (children caged by adoptive parents)

Related to special education: 9 (abuse/neglect in Elementary School)

WINNER of most egregious award: 3: No place for man with autism; 5: Rapist's case to be dismissed after pleading to same charges in another county; 61: Kavanaugh endorses sterilization and forced abortions for people with disabilities.

WINNER of most wonderful award: 36: Couple maps out accessible restrooms in geographic area; 39: Deaf strong hospital designed for full and accessible service for Deaf users.

WHO DUN IT (listed by article number):

Family: 11, 14, 26

School: 10

Carer: 1, 2, 3, 12, 13, 15, 20, 22

Law Enforcement: 46

Guardian: 3

(Note: not all articles identify gender of perpetrators.)

Men: 1, 10, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 54

Women: 2, 15, 20

Good News: 51: Demand for recourse for institutionalized persons

Bad News: 21: Elder abuse is increasing, 87% of perpetrators never jailed.

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. Suspect charged with abusing man with special needs at Daphne group home - A Mobile County man is behind bars in Baldwin County accused of abusing a man with special needs at a group home. – News WKRG 5- August 30, 2018 – Alabama - <https://is.gd/zEVGyr>
2. Video Shows South Windsor Caretaker Launching Elderly Woman Out Of Wheelchair, Police Say- [South Windsor](#) woman faces a variety of charges after police say she assaulted an 83-year-old woman by dumping her out of

a wheelchair.- Hartford Courant – August 28, 2018 – Connecticut- <https://is.gd/2BZdlK>

3. Autistic man abandoned at Naples hospital has no place to go - A public guardian and a state agency thought they had a solution for a severely autistic young man whose mother abandoned him more than a year ago at a Naples hospital. – Naples Daily News – August 27, 2018 – Florida - <https://is.gd/zr0tB0>
4. Personal care home owner granted bond in elderly neglect case - The owner of a personal care home accused of neglect and exploitation of elderly or disabled adults was granted a \$140,000 bond Friday. – Augusta Chronicle – August 24, 2018 – Georgia - <https://is.gd/vObePr>
5. Plea Deal Reached in Sex Abuse Case - A case against a Post Falls man accused of sexually exploiting a vulnerable woman in Bonner County is expected to be dismissed after agreeing to plead guilty to identical charges in Kootenai County. – Daily Bee – August 30, 2018 – Idaho - <https://is.gd/EfFt9l>
6. Bond set for three in neglect case - Neglect charges have been filed against three people after the death of a 64-year-old Monticello man on Monday. – Journal Republican – August 24, 2018 – Illinois - <https://is.gd/I9JSqz>
7. Iowa City Schools still using seclusion rooms - Isolating kids having violent outbursts in a seclusion room is legal in Iowa but the Iowa Department of Education had found Iowa City schools had abused its seclusion rooms, using them too often and for unapproved reasons like failing a test. – KCRG 9 – August 30, 2018 – Iowa- <https://is.gd/a4uxmh>
8. Campbellsville nursing home to close - Officials at The Grandview Nursing & Rehabilitation Facility confirmed that they will have meetings with families on Sunday, August 26 at 2 PM and 4 PM about the closing. They said that after the state received complaints about alleged neglect and abuse at the facility, investigators made multiple visits. – Wave3News – August 25, 2018 – Kentucky- <https://is.gd/PvqnbD>
9. Nightmarish classroom culture' - Suit claims neglect, abuse at Covington Elementary - Three additional families have filed lawsuits against Covington

Elementary School and the St Tammany Parish School District alleging their developmentally disabled children were neglected and abused in a special education classroom during the 2017-2018 school year. – 4WWL – August 24, 2018 – Louisiana - <https://is.gd/MaoyDR>

10. ‘Horrorifying’ alleged abuse of special-education student prompts review of bus security- Recent allegations that a 12-year-old student with special needs was sexually assaulted by her bus driver have raised questions in a Maryland school district about safeguards for the most vulnerable children, prompting a broad review of procedures. – The Washington Post – August 24, 2018 – Maryland - <https://is.gd/1kYBXI> (The incident of abuse in previous Newsfeed, this is an update on Review of Procedures)
11. Mother whose disabled son drank windshield washer fluid and died takes plea - A mother accused of failing to seek medical treatment fast enough for her disabled son after he drank windshield washer fluid and later died has taken a plea a week before her trial was set to begin. – Mlive – August 29, 2018 – Michigan - <https://is.gd/O58ApL>
12. Three ProMedica employees accused of abusing autistic patients, parents seek answers - Megan VanEtten and her husband Brandon received a text message August 10 from a staff member at the Autism Center at ProMedica's Bixby Hospital. It said they had "popped" their non-verbal, autistic son in the mouth. – WTOL 11- August 31, 2018 – Michigan - <https://is.gd/a4uxmh>
13. Man Charged with Raping Mentally Handicapped Women - A southwest Missouri man is charged with rape or attempted rape after authorities say he raped two mentally handicapped women at Ozark Mountain Regional Healthcare. – KTTS 94.7 FM- August 28, 2018 – Missouri - <https://is.gd/Km4Iln>
14. Missouri Woman Renee M. Collins Accused Of Letting Men Rape Her Disabled Daughter For Money And Drugs – Police say a Missouri woman let multiple men rape her minor daughter who suffers from cerebral palsy and autism in exchange for money and drugs, according to the [Columbia Tribune](https://is.gd/yyGhqe). – Inquisitr – August 25, 2018 – Missouri - <https://is.gd/yyGhqe>

15. Former Nursing Assistant Arrested for Assaulting Elderly Woman at Nursing Center - Samantha Siegel, 18, was arrested Monday, Aug. 27, 2018 for allegedly assaulting a 92-year-old woman at a nursing center she previously worked at. – NECN – August 28, 2018 – New Hampshire - <https://is.gd/09tdnb>
16. Group home caregiver charged with molesting 62-year-old resident - A caregiver at a group home in Monroe has been charged with sexually touching a woman in his care. – NJ.Com – August 27, 2018 – New Jersey - <https://is.gd/OkBEsS>
17. Piqua man found guilty in sex offense, obstructing justice - A Piqua man originally charged with rape pleaded no contest Wednesday in a Miami County court to felony gross sexual imposition and obstructing justice. Justin W. Griffin, 28, was indicted earlier by a county grand jury for alleged sexual conduct in January and February in Piqua with an adult who was physically or mentally impaired. - - WHO TV 7- August 24, 2018 – Ohio - <https://is.gd/5ylbis>
18. DuBois man accused of raping mentally disabled victim - Joseph Himes, 33, has been charged with rape, rape of a mentally disabled person, sexual assault, indecent assault and indecent assault of a mentally disabled person. – WJAC – August 30, 2018 – Pennsylvania - <https://is.gd/gHU6yN>
19. WB resident charged with stabbing deaf homeless man - City police Friday arrested Maurice Clinton Chapman on charges he stabbed a deaf homeless man in retaliation for ignoring plans to steal items from a store, according to court records. – Times Leader – August 24, 2018 – Pennsylvania - <https://is.gd/7LrrCk>
20. Waynesboro couple convicted of abusing developmentally disabled teenager - A man who beat a developmentally disabled teenager with a belt, leaving more than 80 sets of injuries, was convicted Friday of felony child abuse in Waynesboro Circuit Court. – News Leader – August 24, 2018 – Pennsylvania - <https://is.gd/RL9Rpg>
21. Elder abuse in R.I.: Reported attacks on the rise, yet most perpetrators avoid prison - A year-long investigation by a team of Brown University students found that 87 percent of those charged with elder-abuse offenses

in R.I. between 2000 and 2017 did not go to prison for those crimes, leaving their elderly victims vulnerable to repeated attacks. – Providence Journal – August 24, 2018- Rhode Island - <https://is.gd/hlj0hh>

22. My dad's not safe': Family of man beaten at nursing home seeks answers- "They convinced me it was a patient," Vera Escobar, one of Lopez's daughters, said. "To know and hear that it was a worker, an employee. That's not going to fly with me." – Click2Houston – August 24, 2018 – Texas - <https://is.gd/9ww8Be>
23. Report: No evidence of systemic failings in Loudoun's use of seclusion, restraint - A Virginia Department of Education report released Aug. 22 detailing the findings from an investigation into Loudoun County Public Schools' use of seclusion and restraint found reported incidents were isolated and not indicative of a systemic failure to comply with LCPS guidelines.- Loudoun Times – August 27, 2018- Virginia - <https://is.gd/wcFuQb>
24. Thousands of kids put in restraints or seclusion each year in Virginia schools - The use of physical restraint, mechanical restraints and seclusion on children shocked many; but investigators concluded that abuse did not occur, because such treatment is within legal guidelines in Virginia. – News Leader – August 28, 2018 – Virginia - <https://is.gd/uk1Tcm>
25. Virginia physician on verge of losing deferred adjudication in elderly exploitation case - Judge offended that doc took family vacation to Italy this summer without having paid full restitution – WV News – August 24, 2018 – West Virginia - <https://is.gd/eve0xn>
26. Bond set at \$20,000 for Melvina couple who put children in 'makeshift cages' - ash bond was set at \$20,000 each for a couple accused of keeping two children locked in filthy “makeshift cages” in a village of Melvina residence. A disabled adult also lived at the residence. – Tomah Journal - August 28, 2018 – Wisconsin - <https://is.gd/QRldE6>

LAWS & LEGISLATION

27. Family pushes for change after nursing aides' Snapchat video mocks dying mother - Across the country, nine states have specific laws on the books which require nursing homes to allow families to install cameras in rooms. Georgia is not one of them. The Stockbridge Democrat says he's tried to pass legislation to allow cameras in nursing home rooms for three years, but it's gone nowhere. - 13wmaz- August 24, 2018- Georgia - <https://is.gd/OnCKct>
28. Ernst cosponsors bill studying domestic violence, brain injury link - Iowa Senator Joni Ernst is among lawmakers calling for a study to determine whether there's a correlation between domestic incidents and traumatic brain injuries. – KMA – August 25, 2018 – Iowa - <https://is.gd/TUYKyZ>
29. Gov. Phil Murphy signs law in Paramus requiring shoulder restraints on school buses - Gov. Murphy said he signed the law for those who died in the bus crash on Route 80 in Mount Olive back in May, as well as all the children of New Jersey. - USA -North Jersey – August 25, 2018 – New Jersey - <https://is.gd/Hs7p59>
30. House farm bill: The latest assault on disability rights - This summer, the House of Representatives passed a divisive farm bill that would cut or end basic food assistance through SNAP to many people with disabilities and their families. In contrast, the Senate adhered to the longstanding tradition of bipartisanship, passing their own farm bill that does not include the House's harsh cuts to SNAP. Now, as the House and Senate prepare to iron out a final version of the bill, we urge those involved to adopt the Senate's approach to SNAP. – The Hill – August 28, 2018 – National- <https://is.gd/P0dY0o>

STUDIES & STATISTICS

31. Inconsistent prevalence estimates highlight studies' flaws - the lore about autism is that prevalence rates are rising — leading many people to call it, misleadingly, an 'epidemic.' Even among scientists, many assume that the

largest prevalence estimates are the most accurate. – Spectrum – August 28, 2018 – Oregon-<https://is.gd/Wolq1P>

32. Elder-abuse victims are often reluctant to press charges- Elder abuse is a difficult crime to prosecute. For every case that gets reported, as many as 24 cases pass under the radar of law enforcement and social services, according to a 2011 study by Cornell University that involved interviews with 4,156 seniors in New York state (or their designated representatives) and 292 social-service and law-enforcement agencies in that state. – Providence Journal – August 24, 2018 – New York - <https://is.gd/5tCUPB>
33. Study helps children hit the right note in supporting autistic peers - The research investigated the impact of school-based music lessons on children aged nine to eleven years old, both with and without autism. – Science Daily – August 28, 2018 – United Kingdom - <https://is.gd/N74p4b>

IMPROVED SUPPORTS

34. Special ed teachers want to save iconic Perry hotel but say the city is against them - The HALO Group in Perry, Ga., is under contract to buy the New Perry Hotel and turn it into a place where adults with developmental disabilities can live and work. They believe City Council is trying to stop their plans, but the city denies it. – The Telegraph- August 27, 2018 – Georgia - <https://is.gd/VJx2bZ>
35. Girl, 6, using lemonade stand to help siblings with special needs - A Metro East girl is using a lemonade stand to raise money so a playground can be built for her brother and sister, both of whom have special needs.- August 27, 2018 – Missouri - <https://is.gd/bOjrVP>
36. Missouri pair makes map of handicapped-accessible restrooms - A Missouri couple have created an online map that shows where there are bathrooms suitable for people with disabilities who need assistance from a caregiver. – Kansas City Star -August 25, 2018 – Missouri - <https://is.gd/nvm69i>
37. Organizers Encouraged by Large Turnout at Kalispell Disability Rights Forum - Aug. 22 event provided opportunity for 15 legislative candidates to meet

with public, advocates and providers- Flathead Beacon – August 25, 2018 – Montana - <https://is.gd/ZmAWLk>

38. New Autism Center Dedicated to Trevyan Rowe- The Autism Council's Information and Referral Service Center will replace the Gates police substation on Chili Ave. The Town of Gates decided to donate the building to the Autism Council because the station has not been used in 10 years.- Spectrum News – August 24, 2018 – New York- <https://is.gd/aWGb8R>
39. "Deaf Strong Hospital" provides important lessons for future doctors - First-year medical students at the University of Rochester are learning about deaf culture in order to ensure deaf patients receive proper medical treatment. – WHAM 13 – August 24, 2018 – New York - <https://is.gd/USySmw>
40. Workshop offers adults with special needs a chance to live independently - Living on our own can be taken for granted. [SOS Health Care's](#) next big project, [Oak Tree Farm](#) is giving individuals with Autism and intellectual disabilities a chance to live independently, but before moving in, some are taking part in an eight week workshop, learning essential skills for [independent living](#). – WMBF – August 25, 2018 – South Carolina - <https://is.gd/ZfJTpc>
41. Area resources targeting children and adults with special needs - The following organizations and events target children and adults with special needs. – Times Free Press – August 27, 2018 – Tennessee - <https://is.gd/Pb0S9W>
42. Valley Mother Urging Teachers to be Educated about Autism - A Rio Grande Valley mother is urging teachers to educate themselves about autism. Many parents who have children with autism feel that teachers don't always understand how to help these children. – KRGV – August 24, 2018 – Texas -<https://is.gd/76aUwT>
43. Child advocacy center working to heal families affected by opioid abuse - The Monongalia County Child Advocacy Center is taking a new, whole-family approach to help kids in families broken and devastated by opioid abuse. The Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Project aims to help kids cope with the trauma they've experienced and to help the parents embrace

sobriety and parenthood. – The Dominion Post – August 26, 2018 – West Virginia - <https://is.gd/KS3AQM>

44. Robot-Assisted Therapy for Autistic Children - Socially-assistive robots help in the therapy for autistic children. – Interesting Engineering – August 26, 2018 – (Global) - <https://is.gd/GvLyyC>

INTERNATIONAL

45. Brain Basics program aims to help caregivers of people with brain injuries - The Newfoundland and Labrador Brain Injury Association is hoping to bring a new program to the province aimed at helping caregivers of people with brain injuries. – CBC News- August 25, 2018 – Canada - <https://is.gd/lcAYhu>
46. 12-Year-Old Autistic Boy Suffers Fractured Skull During Police Rough Handling - Police in Calgary are investigating complaints that officers threw a 12-year-old autistic boy to the ground and fractured his skull. – Newsweek – August 26, 2018 – Canada - <https://is.gd/tiaRQH>
47. More funding, awareness needed in Sask. for people living with brain injuries - The SBIA, which had its annual Brain Boogie event in Wascana Park on Saturday, aims to prevent brain injuries and improve the lives of survivors and their families. – Leader Post – August 26, 2018 – Canada - <https://is.gd/l68shp>
48. Deaf children behind by a GCSE grade - DEAF children are underperforming by a whole GCSE grade compared to their peers in the South West, as a deaf children’s charity called to secure funding in the future. – Gazette and Herald – August 24, 2018 – England - <https://is.gd/jBv6iq>
49. Euthanasia plea: Madras HC appoints 3 member panel to select experts - The Madras high court appointed a three-member committee to select experts to offer suggestion on a passive euthanasia plea of a father for his 9-year-old son, who is in a Persistent Vegetative State (PVS) since his birth in 2008. – Deccan Chronicle – August 25, 2018 – India - <https://is.gd/opwwBk>

50. Iranian Law Should Allow People With Disabilities to Make Their Own Legal Decisions - Ten years after Iran's Parliament ratified the UN's [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (CRPD), the government has failed to implement effective measures to enable individuals with disabilities to make their own decisions. – Payvand – August 24, 2018 – Iran - <https://is.gd/RRXcPy>
51. Join the #wedeservebetter campaign and demand recourse for institutional abuse victims - Sir Anthony Hart delivered the outcome of his independent inquiry into 22 institutions just days before our government collapsed in January 2017. In it he said children who suffered abuse at the hands of state and church between 1922 and 1995 should be compensated and provided with support. – Belfast Live – August 25, 2018 – Ireland - <https://is.gd/4yVnOS>
52. Clinical file of patient 'observed unattended at desk' in psychiatric ward - REPORT INTO an acute psychiatric unit in Tralee has found a number of areas where it was not compliant – including multiple hazards being found in a seclusion room and some residents having to share six-bed, dorm-style rooms. – The [Journal.ie](#)– August 25, 2018 – Ireland - <https://is.gd/1COdZT>
53. Mexican seminarians launch evangelization project for the deaf -Two seminarians in Mexico have launched a project on Facebook to offer evangelization and pastoral ministry tools for the deaf.- Catholic News Agency – August 26, 2018 – Mexico - <https://is.gd/yZ98EU> (** Personal Comment: Run Deaf People Run!)
54. Man charged with sexual assault of disabled girl - A 30-year-old man was arrested and charged after reportedly sexually assaulting a 14-year-old disabled girl multiple times. – OA Online – August 29, 2018 – Ukraine - <https://is.gd/fUvQQf>
55. Autism dogs: Call for regulation as demand quadruples - Charities training support dogs for children with autism are calling for more regulation after figures revealed a quadrupling in requests for help.- BBC News – August 29, 2018 – United Kingdom - <https://is.gd/Ry44Wt>
56. 93% of Britons back our fight to put cameras in care homes - AN overwhelming majority of people last night backed the use of surveillance

cameras in care homes to protect vulnerable people from abuse and neglect. – Express – August 25, 2018 – United Kingdom
- <https://is.gd/sACpEH>

MISCELLANEOUS

57. There's no road map for him': Deaf candidate for Kansas House aiming to make history - here have been deaf city counselors and a deaf mayor, but Chris Haulmark, if elected, would be the first deaf legislator — at the state or national level — in U.S. history, according to the National Association of the Deaf. – Kansas City Star- August 25, 2018 – Kansas
- <https://is.gd/Gn3VT9>
58. Boy with autism steals ambulance, drags firefighter and collides with motorcycle- A 13-year-old boy with autism and ADHD stole an ambulance and crashed into an unoccupied police car and a motorcyclist in Rhode Island, authorities said Friday. – ABC News – August 25, 2018 – (Rhode Island) - <https://is.gd/aX93CG>
59. Theme Park Built by Dad for Daughter with Special Needs Named One of TIME's 'Greatest Places' - “What Morgan’s Wonderland represents in many ways is this culture that is ultra-accessible and fully inclusive,” Hartman, 54, tells PEOPLE. – People – August 24, 2018 – Texas- <https://is.gd/R2ya1J>
60. Online Education Is a Disability Rights Issue - It is time to destigmatize and expand online learning opportunities for college students with disabilities, Brittany Collins argues. – Inside Higher Ed – August 29, 2018 – National
- <https://is.gd/SKKCAB>
61. Brett Kavanaugh’s ‘Forced Abortion’ Decision Is About Far More Than Reproductive Rights - Coerced abortion and sterilization are recurring themes for the disability community, making this case cut particularly close to home for disability rights advocates who are concerned about the makeup of the Supreme Court with Kavanaugh on the bench. – Rewire News – August 28, 2018 – National - <https://is.gd/oj8Tjz>