

# Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of September 8 to September 14, 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, 13, 16, 19, 21, 26, 27, 29, 31, 53, 56, 61

Physical Abuse: 2m 6m 8, 10, 14, 17, 24, 44, 46, 51

Emotional/Verbal Abuse: 8, 10

Armed Robbery: 30

Murder: 1, 28, 41, 52

Neglected: 3, 8

Neglected to Death: 4

Kept Enclosed: 47, 55

Related to special education: 14, 17, 18, 47

Related to social media: 13

**WINNER of most egregious award:** 20: State plans to place sex offenders in group homes with people with developmental disabilities

**WINNER of “good job” award:** 62: Sentence enhancement planned for crimes against people with disabilities.

**WHO DUN IT** (listed by article number):

Family: 10, 28, 41, 51, 52

Carer: 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 16, 23, 24, 25m, 27, 44, 53

Stranger: 19, 21 (couple conspired), 26, 29, 31, 46

Special education: 61            Special education transporter: 3, 14

Priest: 9, 56

Men: 1, 2, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 19, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 41, 44, 46, 52, 53, 56

Women: 6, 10, 17, 23, 24, 30, 51

**Good News:** 11: Jury convicts sexual assault perpetrator; 35, Pending legislation to create registry of individuals with history of abuse of people with disabilities.

**Bad News:** 13: Perpetrator of sexual assault of 11 year old special ed girl, met her through Face Book; 15: Deaf/disabled man to be deported after 34 years in USA to country of origin where, due to his disabilities, he will likely die; 45: sexual assault is common in mental health units under NHS.

**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>

## ABUSE & NEGLECT

1. “An officer with PTSD fatally shot a mentally ill man. He’s still on the force.”  
- On a medical questionnaire, he reported severe hearing loss and blurry vision, severe anxiousness and recurring tense feelings. He wrote that he struggled with forgetfulness and had difficulty concentrating, according to evidence admitted in court. – The Sacramento Bee – September 10, 2018 – (California) - <https://is.gd/XI9dk5>
2. “Nursing home abuse case begins today” - A former employee of Colorow Care Center in Olathe who is accused of throwing a 90-year-old dementia patient against a wall and shattering her hip will stand trial starting today in Montrose. – The Daily Sentinel – September 11, 2018 – (Colorado) - <https://is.gd/bLknHG>
3. “Driver charged for leaving special needs students on bus” - Authorities say the driver left the two Wilbur Cross High School students on a bus Thursday. Police responded after one of the 17-year-old students called a parent. The students weren’t injured. – New York Post – September 7, 2018 – (Connecticut) - <https://is.gd/luLHrg>
4. “Lawmakers question how troubled Florida nursing home owner can keep a stake in the industry” - One hot topic: Concerns about a lack of oversight after a dozen-plus residents died last year at the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills, FL, following Hurricane Irma. – McKnights Long Term Care News – September 7, 2018 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/jL55Kz>
5. “Troy man pleads guilty to assaulting Miami County correction officers” - Common Pleas Court Judge Christopher Gee said Aug. 28 that, after a

recent evaluation, a psychologist found Cotterman currently understands the charges, the potential outcomes and the role of his attorney, and was competent to stand trial. – WHIO TV – September 7, 2018 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/pcRQY8>

6. “UPDATE: Caregiver charged with elder abuse” - The APD report shows that the administrator called police to report that a cell phone video showed a caregiver slapping, shoving her knee into the stomach and choking an elderly dementia patient who soiled himself. – WALB News 10 – September 13, 2018 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/4LHXys>
7. “Nursing home worker arrested for aggravated assault” According to the police report, the patient suffers from mental illness and was slapped on the back of the neck and strangled according to the officer watching the video. – WFXL Fox- September 14, 2018 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/7q9yVu>
8. “More claims of abuse, retaliation at Idaho state-run center for the disabled” - A former employee of a state-run facility in Nampa has filed a whistleblower claim against two Idaho agencies, saying she spoke up about abuse and neglect, then was pulled from her job. – Idaho Statesman – September 10, 2018 – (Idaho) - <https://is.gd/kA9ecU>
9. “Abuse is damaging my church, and it affects us all” - Father Richard Jaclin, a Catholic priest now removed from ministry, allegedly molested a man with intellectual disabilities in an Illinois institution last November. – The Wichita Eagle – September 8, 2018 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/oURoOL>
10. Couple who’ve fostered more than 38 children accused of abusing 8 kids” - That's one of the disturbing allegations being brought against Indiana foster parents Diane Combs, 55, and Timothy Combs, 59, who are accused of

abusing eight children in their care. The children included four foster children, three children they were babysitting and a disabled boy they had adopted, according to [WLTW 5](#). - [WLTW 5](#) – September 6, 2018 – (Indiana) - <https://is.gd/xycJ4r>

11. “Jury convicts rape defendant” - Victim was woman with disabilities – The Journal Gazette – September 14, 2018 – (Indiana) - <https://is.gd/FmshFy>
  
12. “North Iowa Nursing Home Investigated 19 Times in Five Years” - The North Iowa nursing home where an elderly woman recently died has been investigated 19 times in five years. – KIMT 3 – September 10, 2018 – (Iowa) - <https://is.gd/KKtKCT>
  
13. “Knox County man accused of sexually abusing disabled 11-year-old” - Kentucky State Police arrested a Knox County man Monday morning on sexual abuse charges. Jerry Lee Smith is accused of using Facebook Messenger to knowingly have sexual conversations with a disabled 11-year-old girl. Troopers say Smith sent the girl a picture of his genitals and received five pictures of the girl's genitals. – WYMT- September 10, 2018 – (Kentucky) - <https://is.gd/ewjePF>
  
14. “Special needs Detroit student attacked by school bus driver” - The student told the TV station that she got into an argument with the bus driver and was then knocked to the floor, punched, and restrained with enough force to leave bruises. – Detroit Free Press – September 13, 2018 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/QGVbne>
  
15. “Deaf and disabled immigrant faces deportation after 34 years in the United States” - But in a shock to immigrant advocates, the U.S. now wants to deport Anwana to Nigeria, a country he has not lived in since he was a

teenager. Given his severe disabilities, it would be a virtual "death sentence" for him, said Susan Reed, an attorney with the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center. – USA Today – September 8, 2018 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/mzVWwS>

16. "Police investigating sexual assault of 84-year-old woman in nursing home" - Green's mother was taken to the hospital where she said doctors performed a rape kit and, according to paperwork from the family, doctors determined Green's elderly mother was sexually assaulted. – KSDK 5 – September 7, 2018 – (Missouri) - <https://is.gd/3PylAo>
  
17. "I-TEAM Exclusive: Father hires attorney alleging autistic son abused by teacher" - One month later, according to a CCSD document, another school staffer reported the same teacher assaulted Isaac again when he was acting out. This time, twice in the same day twisting his arm, and bending his finger back in the morning, and kneeling him and causing a bruise in the afternoon." – Las Vegas Now – September 6, 2018 – (Nevada) - <https://is.gd/tOVT2R>
  
18. "Lawsuit spotlights special ed problems in Manchester" - Days after moving to the city in January 2017, Susan Cronin walked into the front office of the Beech Street School with her then 8-year-old son, Matthew, and a bundle of documents necessary to register him for classes. – New Hampshire Union Leader – September 8, 2018 – (New Hampshire) - <https://is.gd/2ciKkS>
  
19. "Man arrested, accused of raping and assaulting mentally impaired woman" - Santa Fe police on Thursday arrested a man accused of abducting, raping and strangling a mentally impaired woman this week. Luis Orozco, 65, was charged with criminal sexual penetration, criminal sexual

contact, aggravated battery and kidnapping, court records show. – Santa Fe New Mexican – September 8, 2018 – (New Mexico) - <https://is.gd/V2ZvhP>

20. “Sheriffs, legislators to appeal to governor on group home sex offender issue” - Two local sheriffs, a local district attorney and representatives of two local legislators met Wednesday to discuss how to dissuade the state from moving forward with a plan to put a jailed sex offender in a local group home with developmentally disabled men. – The Post Star – September 7, 2018 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/oXGneM>
  
21. “One of two Devils Lake residents accused of sexually assault mentally-impaired teen enters plea”- One of two Devils Lake residents accused of repeatedly sexually assaulting a mentally-impaired teen pleaded "not guilty" Thursday. -Grand Forks Herald – September 13, 2018 – (North Dakota) - <https://is.gd/H1PS2z>
  
22. “Lucas County Probate Court offers free guardianship training” - While this training is mandated by the Supreme Court for guardians taking in adults only, with the opioid crisis on the rise, Judge Puffenberger said guardians taking children in, specifically their own grandparents, is becoming more common. – WTOL 11 – September 6, 2018 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/6orj3C>
  
23. “Drowning victim's aunt wants group home closed” - Just-released state findings claim that worker left the park for at least two hours after she dropped the teens off. By the time she returned, records show the search for Howell was already underway. – News 5 Cleveland – September 7, 2018 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/qWvRkf>
  
24. “Enid woman charged with abuse by caretaker” - An Enid woman faces an abuse felony after officials said she punched a woman in the face at a

nursing home. – Enid News & Eagle – September 10, 2018 – (Oklahoma) - <https://is.gd/PFLQWZ>

25. “Three plead guilty to roles in death of 88-year-old Charleston woman” - Norma Jean Dunlap’s daughter, Lisa Jean Dunlap, 50, pleaded guilty to neglect of an incapacitated adult causing death during a hearing before Kanawha Circuit Judge Duke Bloom. Kayla Lea Rogers, 29, also pleaded guilty to neglect of an incapacitated adult causing death, and John William Rogers, also 29, pleaded guilty to child neglect. – Charleston Gazette-Mail-September 12, 2018 – (South Carolina) - <https://is.gd/tojdNE>
  
26. “SCSO: Man arrested for sexually battering woman in nursing home” - A man is behind bars Sunday at the Spartanburg County Detention Center after deputies say he sexually battered a woman who was mentally incapacitated and possibly physically helpless. – FOX Carolina – September 9, 2018 – (South Carolina) - <https://is.gd/LFn3vF>
  
27. “Man accused of squeezing disabled patient's testicles, beating him with broom” - A man was accused Tuesday of beating his disabled patient with a broom and squeezing his testicles until he asked for mercy. Pedro Ramirez, 52, was arrested for allegedly inflicting "serious mental and physical abuse" to his disabled client according to an arrest affidavit. – Fox 29 – September 11, 2018 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/EQGcOw>
  
28. “Jury sentences man to 20 years for suffocating wife” - Defense attorney Richard Hattox tried to convince the eight-woman, four-man jury that Scala’s act was a mercy killing. – Hood County News – September 12, 2018 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/ypvJmC>



29. "Man accused of sexually assaulting woman on her deathbed" - Mr. Edwards is charged with sexual abuse of a vulnerable adult stemming from an allegation that he placed his mouth on the breast of a woman that was residing in a rehab facility," Chittenden County Deputy State's Attorney Dana Disano said." - WCAX 3 – September 5, 2018 – (Vermont) - <https://is.gd/NK3OjL>
30. "Milwaukee woman sentenced for her role in armed robbery at assisted-living home in Elm Grove"- A Milwaukee woman, who was charged in connection to a 2017 armed robbery at an assisted-living home, was sentenced Sept. 4 in Waukesha County Circuit Court. – Journal Sentinel – September 11, 2018 – (Wisconsin) - <https://is.gd/cp3V4l>
31. "Man pleads guilty to reduced charges in case involving disabled teen" - Benjamin Parker, 41, was initially charged with false imprisonment, attempted second-degree sexual assault of a mentally disabled victim and disorderly conduct. He is alleged to have groped and kissed a 19-year-old cognitively disabled woman, a stranger, on the bus. The incident was captured on security video. – Kenosha News- September 10 ,2018 – (Wisconsin) - <https://is.gd/GeI4K6>

## GUARDIANSHIP

32. "Report: Savitt involved with 'corruption, collusion of judges" - "Corruption and collusion of judges and lawyers in Delray Beach for financial gain" centered around dubious professional guardian Elizabeth "Betsy" Savitt and her husband, former Circuit Judge Martin Colin, according to a report never before made public by Palm Beach County's guardianship watchdog. – My Palm Beach Post – September 8, 2018 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/nownot>
33. "Guardianship abuse focus of new documentary" - [The Guardians](#) is directed by independent filmmaker Billie Mintz and he focuses on some of

the same victims and families we talked to. Mintz says his film goes even deeper, into more details that "...allowed corrupt court-appointed guardians to take total control over people's health care and financial decisions." – Channel 13 News – September 8, 2018 – (Nevada) - <https://is.gd/IOHPjv>

34. "Local family faced with financial obstacle to keep guardianship of daughter with autism" - Once teens with disabilities turn 18, their parents are required to apply for continued guardianship to stay in charge of their child's decisions.- Everything Lubbock – September 10, 2018 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/gAU267>

#### LAWS & LEGISLATIONS

35. "The Legislature can act now to provide more security for people with disabilities" -The bill, S. 2606, would create a registry to include individuals with a history of allegations of abuse against those with disabilities and ensure that employers have access to this history when considering hiring someone for a caregiver position.- Dorchester Reporter – September 12, 2018 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/9yfbxV>

36. "Elderly fraud prevention pact renewed" - The renewal involved the Winchester/Frederick County chapter of Triad SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together). The chapter, formed in 2014, is part of a national group of law enforcers and organizations that help senior citizens. Triad refers to the AARP, International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Sheriffs Association, which are the groups that came up with the concept in 1988, according to the Attorney General's office. – The Winchester Star – September 7, 2018 – (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/oweit0>

## STUDIES & STATISTICS

37. “A hand up for autistic adults” - A recent study from the Drexel University Autism Institute found that only 14 percent of adults with autism have paying jobs by their mid-20s. – The Daily Progress – September 9, 2018 – (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/FtdBo2>

## IMPROVED SUPPORTS

38. “Incredibly dramatic' federal court ruling could impact Orange County homeless lawsuit” In a decision that could play a role in a closely watched Orange County case, a federal court ruled this week that it is unconstitutional to prosecute homeless people for sleeping on public property when they don't have access to shelter. – Los Angeles Times – September 6, 2018 – (California) <https://is.gd/RShBR9>

39. “Michigan launches major survey of the deaf, blind” - The Department of Civil Rights launched an online survey Thursday to learn more about that population and how people get access to government, health care and other parts of civic life. The state says it's the first effort in roughly 30 years. Annie Urasky, director of the Division on Deaf, Deaf, Blind and Hard of Hearing, says the survey will help create a comprehensive picture of the needs of the community. – WILX – September 6, 2018 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/2CMS7p>

40. “Project Lifesaver helping to keep loved ones” - According to Sheila Mazzaferro, assistive technology coordinator for Life and Independence for Today (LIFT), individuals with cognitive disabilities caused by Alzheimer's disease, autism, dementia, Down syndrome and traumatic brain injury have a tendency to wander and become missing. – Courier Express- September 9, 2018 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/NdyFni>

## INTERNATIONAL

41. "Pasir Ris double deaths: 'Depressed' father was worried about future of autistic daughter" -The father of an intellectually disabled daughter stabbed her to death before jumping to his demise because he believed that ending their lives would solve his concerns over her future, the State Coroner said on Friday (Sep 7). -Channel NewsAsia – September 7, 2018 – (Asia) - <https://is.gd/OxDnzU>
  
42. "Mentally impaired teen accused of sexually assaulting multiple women released into the community" - A teenage boy accused of committing multiple sex assaults from the age of 13, including molesting a six-year-old girl while on bail, has been released into his community on the advice of psychologists. – ABC – September 7, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/nURwCg>
  
43. "Designated responders help protect most vulnerable" - Across Interior Health thousands of people receive quality health-care services each day. But did you know that, under the Adult Guardianship Act, Interior Health is also a designated agency responsible for investigating cases of suspected adult abuse, including neglect and self-neglect? – e-know – September 11, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/hokWUI>
  
44. "Aged care worker who 'bashed nursing home resident, 82' REFUSES to apologise to the man's family as he fronts court" - An aged care worker captured on film allegedly bashing an elderly dementia patient has refused to apologise or explain his actions. Prakash Paudyal, 35, was charged last week after secretly-filmed footage captured him allegedly assaulting patient David Nabulsi, 82, at a Seaforth facility on Sydney's northern beaches last month. – Daily Mail – September 11, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/yzmUIK>

45. "NHS care regulator says sexual incidents 'commonplace' in mental health units" - Alleged rapes, sexual assault and sexual harassment of patients and staff among incidents reported- The Guardian – September 10, 2018 – (Britain) <https://is.gd/bJnWp0>
46. "Man with cerebral palsy recounts being attacked and restrained at downtown drug store" - "I shook his hand and he did not let go," Phillips said. Then, standing right beside Phillips, the man grabbed both of his arms and restrained him for about 25 minutes. Phillips said he yelled out, as best he could, but nobody stepped in to help. -CBC – September 7, 2018 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/GQaGip>
47. Sherwood Park boy with autism was locked naked in isolated room at school, parents claim in lawsuit - Parents who say their 12-year-old son was locked naked in a seclusion room at a school east of Edmonton, and ended up covered in his own feces, are suing Elk Island Public Schools and the provincial government. – The Star Edmonton – September 14, 2018 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/0vzKpO>
48. "Young teachers play dual roles in helping China's handicapped orphans"- China has around 410,000 orphans. Most of them have birth defects and are unable to attend regular schools. But all is not lost. Several special education schools have been set up in welfare homes across the country, where many young teachers are making a difference. – CGTN- September 9, 2018 – (China)- <https://is.gd/l2JalI>
49. "Bexhill care service praised for 'safeguarding vulnerable adults from abuse" - SOS Home Services, based in Pebsham Drive, was rated as 'good' in its latest Care Quality Commission Report (CQC), 18 months after it was told it required improvement. -Bexhill-On- Sea Observer – September 6, 2018 – (England) - <https://is.gd/uXtKFW>

50. "Caregiver accused of elder abuse seeks special probation" - On Thursday, in Enfield Superior Court, the woman, Christine Christensen, 62, applied for accelerated rehabilitation, a special program for first offenders that can result in erasure of criminal charges after a probationary period of not longer than two years. – Journal Inquirer – September 14, 2018 – (England) - <https://is.gd/wXIHdO>
51. "Woman sentenced to jail for striking autistic son" - "The defendant was out of control," the prosecuting attorney said prior to Monday's sentencing. He noted that Ipema struck her child 14-16 times Feb. 12, and had to be stopped by another adult. – Grand Haven Tribune – September 13, 2018 – (Holland) - <https://is.gd/8SpXf2>
52. "High Court to go slow on plea for mercy killing" - The Madras High Court, on Monday, decided to go slow on a plea made by a tailor to kill his nine-year-old son by withdrawing "all forms of food, nutrition and medicines" because the child has been suffering from congenital Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy (HIE), a brain dysfunction caused due to low supply of oxygen.- The Hindu – September 11, 2108 – (India) - <https://is.gd/PpoYIJ>
53. "Inmates of shelter home for disabled kids allege sexual abuse" - Inmates of a privately run residential facility for disabled children here Friday accused its founder of sexually abusing two girls and three boys. – Business Standard – September 14, 2018 – (India) <https://is.gd/thTZJk>
54. "Tralee Institute and Castlegregory lead the way for autistic golfers" - Despite such difficulties, a trailblazing programme that is concentrating on introducing children with autism to golf, organised by Tralee IT and supported by UNESCO and the Ernie Els Foundation, is on-going at

Castlegregory Golf Club. – Limerick Leader – September 9, 2018 – (Ireland) - <https://is.gd/N6DBJx>

55. “Okinawa huts raise questions about care for mentally ill” - For 13 years, Tomitoshi lived locked in a windowless hut in the northern part of Okinawa's main island. His only connections to the outside world in the 5-square-meter and 2-meter-high concrete shed were a slot for receiving his meals through, five holes of about 10 centimeters in diameter and a groove in the floor where his excrement could flow out. – The Asahi Shimbun – Asian and Japan Watch – September 8, 2018 – (Japan) <http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201809080001.html>

56. “Show of support for priest suspected of sexual abuse” - As [previously reported by LSM](#), priest Pāvels Zeila is being held in custody by police as part of what they believe was a three-person sexual abuse ring involving abuse of a mentally disabled man.

57. On Sunday several hundred parishoners and supporters of the priest staged a protest and prayer meeting, calling for his release from custody and a fair trial. – LSM.LV – September 10, 2018 – (Latvia) - <https://is.gd/Pinj3W>

58. “Disability advocate Esther Woodbury condemns sale of disabled parking permits” - An advocate speaking out against the sale of disabled parking permits online has recalled being abused after confronting people parked illegally. - NewsHub - September 14, 2018 - (New Zealand)- <https://is.gd/Q0b9jI>

59. “[Centre of Autism Rehabilitation and Training opens in Karachi](#)” - Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah inaugurated the first-ever Centre of Autism Rehabilitation and Training (C-ART) at Gulistan-e-Jauhar, Karachi on

Saturday. – The Express Tribune – September 9, 2018 – (Pakistan) - <https://is.gd/wBW2jo>

60. “Project to help autistic youths in Falkirk district find work” - A project which seizes money from criminals to help autistic young people find work is looking to support more Falkirk district residents. The National Autistic Society Scotland’s Moving Forward scheme aims to help 16 to 24-year-olds develop skills for the workplace, gain social confidence and gain employment. – The Falkirk Herald – September 10, 2018 – (Scotland) - <https://is.gd/LAFHfa>

61. “Lothian schools for disabled kids investigated by abuse inquiry” - Donaldson's School for the deaf in Linlithgow is among 86 other deaf and blind schools in Scotland being probed.- Edinburgh Evening News – September 13, 2018 – (Scotland) - <https://is.gd/Ou2pfk>

62. “Penal Code set to undergo overhaul, to better protect vulnerable victims against abuse and sexual crimes” - For example, the committee called for a doubling of the punishment for offenders committing crime against vulnerable victims — children, disabled person and the elderly, as well as domestic helpers. – Today – September 14, 2018 – (Singapore) - <https://is.gd/KG9dZl>

63. “Blood test can spot autism in children” - A NEW blood test has been found to spot autism in children – allowing intensive behavioural therapy at an early age. Until now there has not been a biological test for children on the autism spectrum. – Express UK – September 7, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/kefyUB>

64. “The DWP is now pouring even more scorn on a damning UN report” - The Department for Work and Pensions ([DWP](#)) has released a response to a



damning UN report. It accused the DWP and government of disabled people's human rights violations. The Canary previously [analysed](#) part of the government's response. But, a separate section shows even more of its disregard for what the UN called a "human catastrophe". – The Canary – September 9, 2018 – (United Kingdom)- <https://is.gd/cDqf3r>