

Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of March 3 to March 9, 2017

In this week's newsfeed, you will note several egregious cases of physical assault, financial exploitation by professionals, and some interesting legal decisions.

This list was compiled by Jennifer Palmer, edited by Nora Baladerian and Tom Coleman, who posts this on our website, www.disabilityandabuse.org.

This week's articles include the following:

Sexual Assault: 20, 30, 36, 37, 94

Physical Assault: 2, 5, 16, 83

Murder: 12, 14, 119

Death: 38, 116

Neglect: 9, 27,

Financial abuse: 28

Civil rights: 4, 7 (Autistic student arrested), 80 (special ed board of school district resigns in protest)

Guardianship: 26 + 32

Legal issues: 77 (seat belts not approved for school bus), 78 (proposal for insurance to cover treatment for autism), 79 (closure of developmental center analyzed again), 82 (internal abuse investigations approved rather than to law enforcement/other agency.) 87 (special education classroom videos not available to parent after her son was abused in class)

Special treatment (!) Couple with Down syndrome asked to refrain from kissing at a party (inappropriate, they were told).

1. **Study: Elder abuse not recognized or reported in U.S. hospital ERs.** In the U.S., about one in 10 people 60 or over who live at home are abused, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Daily Courier, March 8 (Arizona) <https://is.gd/icFm8T>
2. **Arkansas judge keeps case of mentally disabled teen accused of getting 3-year-old to smoke in adult court.** He says that's where youth with low IQ, filmed smoking with toddler, can get help. Arkansas Online, March 10 (Arkansas) <https://is.gd/R8INpy>

- 3. Aspen Police: Woman used dead woman's handicap parking privileges.** Police ticketed a 49-year-old local woman last month for using a dead woman's handicapped parking placard, according to a police report. The Aspen Times, March 4 (Colorado) <https://is.gd/WfG7ov>
- 4. How Disability-Rights Activists Cited for Cory Gardner Protest Will Fight the Power.** At 8:30 a.m. Today, March 9, eighteen disability-rights protesters cited during a demonstration against repealing the Affordable Care Act at Senator Cory Gardner's downtown Denver office earlier this year will make their first court appearance. Westwood, March 9 (Colorado) <https://is.gd/MJq4LJ>
- 5. Police: 3 adults arrested in physical abuse of autistic child at camp.** Three recreation workers in Pensacola were arrested on Thursday after accused of physically and mentally abusing a 12-year-old autistic child, police said. Palm Beach Post, March 5 (Florida) <https://is.gd/LhZUXY>
- 6. Three arrested for abuse of autistic boy at recreation center.** Surveillance video showed one of the suspects slapping the child in the face and kicking him. nwfddailynews.com, March 3 (Florida) <https://is.gd/90HMzt>
- 7. Parents upset after teen with Asperger's arrested for altercation with teacher.** The parents of a freshman at a Florida high school are questioning the way officials handled their son's outburst. wokv.com, March 4 (Florida) <https://is.gd/49nNxd>
- 8. CCHR Files over 2,300 Complaints on Psychiatric Abuse in Florida.** The Citizens Commission on Human Rights, a non-profit mental health watchdog established by the Church of Scientology and psychiatrist Dr. Thomas Szasz in 1969, has filed over 2,300 complaints on psychiatric abuse in Florida in an ongoing effort to clean up the field of mental health. GLOBE NEWSWIRE, March 9 (Florida) <https://is.gd/zalCsK>
- 9. Trial to begin for couple accused of imprisoning, starving autistic teen.** The trial will likely begin this week for the Lawrenceville mother and stepfather accused of starving an autistic teenager. gwinnettdaily.com, March 4 (Georgia) <https://is.gd/H3ec25>
- 10. Victim in wheelchair crash identified.** Colquitt County Deputy Coroner Kevin Wimberly identified the victim of a Friday accident as Whitley Kirk, 60, of Fifth Avenue Southeast. The Moultrie Observer, March 4 (Georgia) <https://is.gd/ta8G6g>

11. 75-year-old multimillionaire nearly dies of neglect, conservator says.

Police are investigating a case of elder abuse in which officers suspect the victim's caretakers stole her money to pay for college tuition. Palm Beach Post, March 6 (Georgia) <https://is.gd/IEf3Eu>

12. Lifeguard was on computer when autistic teen drowned, lawsuit

claims. The mother of a special education student who drowned at his Chicago school's swimming pool earlier this year has filed a lawsuit claiming in part that her son was left unsupervised by a lifeguard who was using a computer in a nearby office. foxnews.com, March 7 (Illinois) <https://is.gd/eFNKix>

13. Frankfort Woman Arrested On Elderly Neglect, Animal Cruelty.

Deputies have arrested a woman accused of leaving her elderly mother on the floor covered in animal feces. Lex18.com, March 8 (Kentucky) <https://is.gd/aGJzh4>

14. Group home resident indicted in fatal stabbing of employee.

A man has been indicted in the slaying of an employee at a central Kentucky group home where he lived. www.wbko.com, March 3 (Kentucky) <https://is.gd/BPXt52>

15. Daughter Charged With Neglect After Mother Found In Filth.

Deputies in Franklin County have released pictures from inside a Frankfort home where they say an adult daughter neglected to care for her mother. lex18.com, March 6. (Kentucky) <https://is.gd/z8mvVy>

16. JCPS bus monitor accused of choking special needs student.

A Jefferson County Public Schools bus monitor has been accused of choking a 9-year-old special needs student. wtky.com, March 4 (Kentucky) <https://is.gd/jN0vAW>

17. Judge Orders Competency Evaluation in Group Home Killing.

A judge has ordered a man charged with killing a caretaker at the Kentucky group home where he lived to undergo a competency evaluation. usnews.com, March 8 (Kentucky) <https://is.gd/WXAcYD>

18. Missing 73-year-old Baltimore man suffers from Schizophrenia &

diabetes. Baltimore City Police need your help to find a missing 73-year-old man who suffers from Schizophrenia and is diabetic. foxbaltimore.com , March 7 (Maryland) <https://is.gd/EKxqZG>

19. Clairmont: Violent offender allegedly lashes out again, attacks

roommate with sword. Syna Lorn, who has a violent past, was accepted into a Hamilton lodging home with no disclosure of his history. The Hamilton Spectator, March 8 (Michigan) <https://is.gd/9E3dXy>

- 20. Mentally impaired mom can't dodge 25-year jail term for offering 6-year-old daughter for sex.** A mentally impaired woman who tried to market her 6-year-old daughter for sex via the internet has failed to wring mercy from a federal appeals court. Penn Live, March 7 (Michigan) <https://is.gd/zq8eeZ>
- 21. Handicapped woman blocked from building her own wheelchair ramp.** For Ann Arbor resident Sarah Tankson, it's the little things that present the most challenge. At 51 years old, Tankson is struggling with a neurological disorder called Dystonia that's left her bound to a wheelchair. wxyz.com, March 7 (Michigan) <https://is.gd/BTEke7>
- 22. Updated: 5 Die in Blaze At Detroit Group Home That Treated the 'Dispossessed'.** A suspect has been arrested in the arson that killed five people in the Detroit group home on Wednesday, the Detroit News reports. Deadline Detroit, March 9 (Michigan) <https://is.gd/OeVKSr>
- 23. A warning, a gun sale and tragic consequences.** Despite a mother's plea, her mentally ill daughter was sold a firearm. Here's why she sued. The Washington Post, March 6 (Missouri) <https://is.gd/NWgHrt>
- 24. Judge: Jury will decide relief for amputee after 3 cops violated his rights.** A jury will decide how much relief to award an amputee after an appeals court ruled three Lincoln police officers violated his rights by forcing him from his van at gunpoint. Lincoln Journal Star, March 7 (Nebraska) <https://is.gd/szLNEj>
- 25. Las Vegas community helps woman whose SUV was stolen with daughter's wheelchair inside.** UPDATE MARCH 8: Many people were heartbroken after hearing a Las Vegas mom was left not just without a car, but without her daughters' car seats and custom-made wheelchair. ktnv.com, March 8 (Nevada) <https://is.gd/vGVMNY>
- 26. Grand jury indicts 4 in major guardianship abuse case.** A woman accused of victimizing elderly and dependent adults has been arrested it follows a grand jury indictment, identifying 130 victims. Las Vegas Now, March 8 (Nevada) <https://is.gd/WAcyEL>
- 27. Autistic Teen Left on Bus Overnight, 2 Arrested: Police.** An autistic teenager was left on a bus overnight as the driver and a monitor lied about dropping him off, police said Saturday. nbcnewyork.com, March 4 (New York) <https://is.gd/bdZXhe>

- 28. Owner of non-profit that helped people with disabilities charged with theft.** A 16-count indictment alleges that the owner of a non-profit stole over \$750,000 that the state paid her business to support people with disabilities. Foxnews.com, March 3 (Ohio) <https://is.gd/N4dzU2>
- 29. Police: Drunk PDX driver struck man in wheelchair.** Tami Stein, 55, faces charges of DUII and reckless driving. [koin.com](https://is.gd/jZe8gW), March 5 (Oregon) <https://is.gd/jZe8gW>
- 30. Sick teaching assistant, 26, tricked 'special needs' pupil, 16, into having sex with her leaving him 'traumatised'.** Christine Marie Towers pleaded guilty to institutional sexual assault and corrupting a minor. The Sun, March 8 (Pennsylvania) <https://is.gd/VqgoDn>
- 31. Garces restaurant 24 is sued over handicapped access.** Jose Garces' restaurant company and the owner of the building that houses his Center City restaurant 24 Wood-Fired Fare have been sued by a Philadelphia woman who claims that she could not easily access the restaurant because its entrances are not compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act. [philly.com](https://is.gd/f7a4lQ), March 7 (Pennsylvania) <https://is.gd/f7a4lQ>
- 32. 4 indicted in unprecedented guardianship abuse case, April Parks arrested in Pennsylvania.** April Parks was arrested by local police in East Goshen Township, PA. The Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department charged Parks with being a fugitive from justice and she was arraigned. [ktnv.com](https://is.gd/oe81Lc), March 9 (Pennsylvania) <https://is.gd/oe81Lc>
- 33. Fire destroys North Lebanon group home.** A discarded cigarette caused a fire that destroyed a group home for the intellectually disabled in North Lebanon Township Thursday night. Lebanon Daily News, March 3 (Pennsylvania) <https://is.gd/SlW3q1>
- 34. After child drowns in pond, social services chief resigns.** The director of a county social services department in North Carolina has resigned following the death of a toddler who was under the agency's supervision when he drowned in a pond. [BlueRidgeNow.com](https://is.gd/1DNDA7), March 3 (Tennessee) <https://is.gd/1DNDA7>
- 35. Court affirms conviction, death penalty for Petetan.** The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals on Wednesday affirmed the April 2014 capital murder conviction and death sentence of Carnell Petetan Jr. Waco Trib, March 8 (Texas) <https://is.gd/vkLhmN>
- 36. Jury: Olsen sodomized mentally disabled man.** A LaVerkin man was found guilty of sodomizing a mentally-challenged man inside of the men's restroom of the

Sunset West Bowling Center last fall. thespectrum.com, March 3 (Utah) <https://is.gd/chqKQH>

37. Chesterfield man with Asperger's syndrome gets three

years in sexual assault case. A Chesterfield County man diagnosed with a form of autism has been sentenced to a three-year jail term for two sexual assault convictions stemming from a 2012 incident. Richmond Times-Dispatch, March 9 (Virginia) <https://is.gd/1SUWtk>

38. 1 killed in accident involving motorized wheelchair.

Monday 3/6: The victim in this crash has been identified as 61-year-old Denice J. Fells, police say. tmj4.com, March 6 (Wisconsin) <https://is.gd/sOC4wN>

39. Group home residents get special IDs.

Racine resident Ruben Santos, 57, was found dead in the woods five days after wandering away from a group home where he resided to help with his mental disability. The Journal Times, March 6 (Wisconsin) <https://is.gd/RdNXka>

40. Milwaukee woman charged in starvation death of 7-year-old denied insanity plea.

A Milwaukee County judge denied an insanity plea for one of two women charged in the torture and starvation death of 7-year-old Trevion Winningham. Journal Sentinel, March 7 (Wisconsin) <https://is.gd/x1H1KR>

IMPROVED SUPPORTS

41. Here's How Ice Cube is Taking Action and Raising Money For Autism.

Ice Cube has recently dipped back into his own music catalog, this time to breathe new life into his classic track "It Was a Good Day," revamping the single all for a good cause. Bet.com, March 5. <https://is.gd/t7BeOn>

42. Sequencing thousands of whole genomes yields new autism genes.

An analysis of whole-genome sequences from more than 5,000 people has unearthed 18 new candidate genes for autism. The study, the largest yet of its kind, was published today in *Nature Neuroscience*¹. spectrumnews.org, March 6. <https://is.gd/Em0Q7g>

43. What You Never Knew About Raising Special Needs Kids.

As the mom of a special needs kid, I was shocked to read recently that two Harvard Law School

administrators were recently charged with criminally defrauding special needs students of \$110,000 since 2013. LifeZette.com, March 7 <https://is.gd/hnBbRB>

- 44. Masculinity Becomes Asperger's Syndrome.** My five-year-old son was recently diagnosed with Asperger's. One of the red flags noted by his speech therapist, and then by the psychologist who diagnosed him, is that he "can't play pretend." The Thinking Housewife, March 7 <https://is.gd/xJJ5Zg>
- 45. Antipsychotic Adherence Boosted by Financial Incentives.** Patients with psychotic disorders have better compliance with their depot medication treatments when they receive modest financial incentives for adherence, found a recent study. Psychiatry Advisor, March 8. <https://is.gd/XE4tzh>
- 46. New book outlines how autism is reshaping special education.** Dive Brief: School districts have long been asked to give special education students access to an appropriate curriculum, but a new book highlights the more modern call for approaches that lead to academic success. Education Dive, March 6. <https://is.gd/4zqybt>
- 47. Sunshine School and Development Center Celebrates Successes Every Day.** For nearly 60 years the Sunshine School and Development Center has worked to help folks of all ages achieve more in their lives in spite of their disabilities. This Northwest Arkansas ray of sunshine has helped create firsts for so many over the years. nwahomepage.com, March 7 (Arkansas) <https://is.gd/Z9QLqd>
- 48. Cloquet Man Hopes For All-Terrain Wheelchair.** Father Wishes to Spend More Time With His Kids. Fox21online.com, March 2 (Colorado) <https://is.gd/dlGPIQ>
- 49. Study reveals frustrations with special education in District 41.** A review of special education programs in Glen Ellyn Elementary District 41 shows deep frustrations among some parents and apparent inconsistencies in instruction. Daily Herald, March 7 (Illinois) <https://is.gd/2bGqc3>
- 50. How Maryland legislators can fix a problem one mother found with special education.** I recently wrote a post about Katherine Spurlock, a former public school teacher who moved to Montgomery County, Md., from a tiny school district in New York and discovered shocking about special education. The Washington Post, March 2 (Maryland) <https://is.gd/ssD7pp>
- 51. Study identifies protein as target to treat autism.** Researchers found a protein that appears to play a role in the behavioral, as well as physiological, symptoms of autism spectrum disorder. UPI, March 8 (Michigan)

<https://is.gd/oKVnPP>

- 52. MU Student Health Center to start billing for office visits, psychology appointments.** The MU Student Health Center will begin billing students for office visits starting July 1. This change is tied to rising health care costs, according to an email sent from the MU Student Health Center. *Missourian*, March 7 (Missouri) <https://is.gd/OlagLo>
- 53. Nebraska to cut staff in developmental disabilities agency.** Nebraska officials have announced plans to cut 39 jobs at a Beatrice facility for people with developmental disabilities and transition residents out of a state program in Hastings. *The Washington Times*, March 7 (Nebraska) <https://is.gd/A5n6Fy>
- 54. State insists cuts at Beatrice State Development Center about care, not state budget.** State officials insist a move to downsize the Beatrice State Developmental Center has nothing to do with the state budget and everything to do with the treatment of the developmentally disabled. *nebraskaradionetwork.com*, March 8 (Nebraska) <https://is.gd/Nd9tIN>
- 55. An inside look at life in a community residence for disabled.** From the outside, the semi-attached residence near the corner of Dongan Hills Avenue looks like your average Staten Island home: The grass is manicured, garbage pails are near the curb and curtains hang in the windows. *silive.com*, March 6 (New York) <https://is.gd/h1iUNz>
- 56. Column: Time to stop putting kids with disabilities in adult prisons.** North Carolina is one of only two states in the nation that continue to treat 16- and 17-year-olds as adults in the criminal justice system — no matter how minor the offense. *Citizen-Times*, March 5 (North Carolina) <https://is.gd/tQTtQS>
- 57. NH Struggling to Solve Psychiatric Problem.** Long waits for New Hampshire residents seeking mental health care has become a new normal much to the dismay of advocates. *usnews.com*, March 6 (New Hampshire) <https://is.gd/vFGPX0>
- 58. For those with disabilities and special needs, enhancing life.** Scenic Hudson operates Hudson Valley parks that are accessible to people with disabilities. *Poughkeepsie Journal*, March 4 (New Jersey) <https://is.gd/eEwFA4>
- 59. Yoga is an effective antidepressant drugs for treating depression, study claims.** New York: If you are diagnosed with depression, just take a deep breath and join yoga classes to experience significant reduction in symptoms without the side effects associated with antidepressants, new research suggests. *Newsheads*, March 4 (New York) <https://is.gd/TekgOo>

- 60. Judge approves policies on how Cleveland police deal with the mentally ill.** The federal judge overseeing Cleveland's police reform approved a set of policies on Monday designed to guide officers on how to deal with people suffering a mental health crisis. cleveland.com, March 6 (Ohio) <https://is.gd/oWdFTn>
- 61. Local families learn developmental disabilities don't have to mean dependence.** When Joe Laage's older sister graduated from high school and left for college, he naturally started asking when it would be his turn to live on his own. wcpo.com, March 7 (Ohio) <https://is.gd/NJJYnl>
- 62. Remote monitoring of Ohio's disabled saves money, fills need.** Technology helps Lori Bolton feel safe at home when no one else is around. Bolton, 41, has developmental disabilities and health issues that in the past required around-the-clock staff help from the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities. The Columbus Dispatch, March 8 (Ohio) <https://is.gd/5Jiqid>
- 63. Local wheelchair basketball team hoping to go to nationals.** A Rogue Valley basketball team is inspiring youth up and down the West Coast, visiting one school at a time. It's not just their moves that are eye-catching, it's how they move that has everyone mesmerized. kobi5.com, March 6 (Oregon) <https://is.gd/nLei93>
- 64. New prosthetics and orthotics clinic offers compassion, amputee support. Alex St. Louis said amputees are like fingerprints.** Each person has their own story and specific needs. When it comes to prosthetics and orthotics, such as artificial limbs, braces and other devices, St. Louis is hoping the new downtown clinic, Evergreen Prosthetics & Orthotics, meets the needs of the Longview-Kelso community. The Daily News, March 6 (Oregon) <https://is.gd/2knxf0>
- 65. Pennsylvania's Special Needs Children at Risk from Medicaid Overhaul, Advocates Say.** Changes proposed by the Republican Congress would be the most sweeping in a decade, advocates say, and threaten more than \$140 million for Pennsylvania children. nbcphiladelphia.com, March 7 (Pennsylvania) <https://is.gd/MAz47D>
- 66. Living with a disability is living nonetheless, advocates say.** Brenda Dare is sick of going to funerals for people with disabilities and hearing others say that the person who died is in a better place. Standard-Times, March 4 (Pennsylvania) <https://is.gd/Yh1Kfl>

67. People with autism, intellectual disabilities fight bias in transplants.

Paul Corby, 27, who is autistic and suffers from several psychological conditions, was rejected for a heart transplant by the University of Pennsylvania Health System. The Washington Post, March 4 (Pennsylvania) <https://is.gd/3rA3kd>

68. Social Media Exacerbates Perceived Social Isolation.

One of the ironies of overusing social media is that instead of making someone feel more socially connected, the latest research suggests that heavy use of social media can exacerbate feelings of social isolation. Psychology Today, March 7 (Pennsylvania) <https://is.gd/ydY996>

69. Dallas: language issue affects Hispanic special education students.

A review finds some Hispanic students in Dallas have struggled to get special education services because of language issues, but there's no evidence of intentional exclusion. ktxs.com, March 4 (Texas) <https://is.gd/MsxlBU>

70. Special Education Services changing in Texas.

The future of special education services in Texas is changing. As of now, only 8.5 percent of students can enroll in special education classes. kfdm.com, March 8 (Texas) <https://is.gd/BTdxwJ>

71. Make Texas nursing homes safe.

Ninety-three thousand: That's about how many people reside in Texas nursing facilities. Fewer people live in Galveston, Georgetown, Temple, Sugar Land and more than 1,000 other Texas cities and towns. TribTalk, March 7 (Texas) <https://is.gd/g1SjXi>

72. New College Course For Autistic Students Offers Possibilities.

A new class at Tarrant County College's Southeast Campus is opening doors of possibility for students with autism. The class of early 20 students meets twice a week to learn computer animation. nbcdfw.com, March 7 (Texas) <https://is.gd/g73ZB1>

73. Their Voice: Two athletic programs available to kids with developmental disabilities.

With the exception of a small number of very dedicated runners, it seems that winter has a way of forcing everyone indoors... This is not always the case when it comes to children with developmental disabilities. Daily Herald, March 4. (Utah) <https://is.gd/cOAEj>

74. Parents, private schools wary of shifting special education funds in Virginia.

The state will spend the next eight months studying ways to bring under control a part of the budget that's currently growing unchecked. Richmond Times-Dispatch, March 2 (Virginia) <https://is.gd/99klL8>

75. Building life skills for students with special needs. In Mollie Rutledge's class, you learn by doing. That's the idea behind a new initiative at E.B. Stanley Middle School that focuses on building life skills for students with special needs. swvatoday.com, March 8 (Virginia) <https://is.gd/h9M6av>

76. Mental health clinic and rooming house put on hold by Plan Commission. After a lengthy discussion Wednesday, the City Plan Commission put on hold a decision on an outpatient mental health clinic at 3710 Douglas Ave. The Journal Times, March 9 (Wisconsin) <https://is.gd/gfSubr>

Law and Legislation

77. 23 STATES WITH PENDING BILLS ON SCHOOL BUS SEAT BELTS, FUNDING. The following are the latest bills that were introduced in January 2017. According to LegiScan, state government websites and the State Traffic Safety Legislation Database, 23 states have pending and failed legislative to approve seat belts, school transportation and school bus funding. School Transportation News, March 8. <https://is.gd/Pt7T6o>

78. Lawmakers Review Bill to Require Autism Coverage in Alabama. Lawmakers are reviewing a bill that would require insurance companies to pay for autism therapy in Alabama. usnews.com, March 9 (Alabama) <https://is.gd/gDHdBq>

79. Sonoma Developmental Center closure needs careful scrutiny. California's nonpartisan legislative analyst is again raising some red flags about plans to close the Sonoma Developmental Center. The Press Democrat, March 8 (California) <https://is.gd/WIQz3F>

80. Brentwood: Entire special education board resigns in protest. The entire executive board of a special education advisory committee at Brentwood Union School District resigned on Thursday morning in protest against new bylaws that they say are discriminatory and exclusionary. East Bay Times, March 2 (California) <https://is.gd/x7uW2r>

81. Setting the Record Straight on Gorsuch and Disabilities. A major wire service recently published a story claiming that "Neil Gorsuch has embraced a bare-bones standard of education for disabled children." Nationalreview, March 4 (Colorado) <https://is.gd/lf5jRN>

82. After State's Disability Rights Office Is Disbanded, A New Approach

Taking Shape. Tom Fiorentino, parent and board president, The Arc Connecticut, opposes a plan to move the abuse investigations unit inside the state department that oversees services to people with intellectual disabilities. Hartford Courant, March 9 (Connecticut) <https://is.gd/VHEwXX>

83. Report Released on Abuse of Iowa Residents With Disabilities.

An investigation of verbal and physical abuse at the Glenwood State Resource Center has found that employees were poorly trained and lacked supervision. usnews.com, March 7 (Iowa) <https://is.gd/1v7yuV>

84. Disability rights advocates arrested at state Capitol.

Disability rights advocates say they're fed up with what they say is a lack of response from Gov. Andrew Cuomo on funding for services that help them stay in their communities, including a lack of funds to pay home health care workers adequate wages. wxxinews.org, March 7 (New York) <https://is.gd/1rXPnK>

85. Column: Time to stop putting kids with disabilities in adult prisons.

North Carolina is one of only two states in the nation that continue to treat 16- and 17-year-olds as adults in the criminal justice system — no matter how minor the offense. Citizen-Times, March 5 (North Carolina) <https://is.gd/tQTtQS>

86. South Dakota Developmental Center Workers Vote to Unionize.

Workers at the South Dakota Developmental Center in Redfield have voted to join the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. usnews.com, March 9 (South Dakota) <https://is.gd/AO5Hjc>

87. Some KISD parents unhappy with special education video

monitoring policy. Some Killeen parents are unhappy with at least a portion of Killeen Independent School District's policy related to special education video monitors. Killeen Daily Herald, March 4. (Texas) <https://is.gd/ICuAXI>

88. Bill to bar death penalty for mentally ill faces uphill battle.

Bill to bar death penalty for mentally ill faces uphill battle. Texas Tribune, March 8 (Texas) <https://is.gd/WcQWM9>

89. TEA to put end to enrollment 'cap' for special needs kids.

Advocates are claiming victory after they said the Texas Education Agency has pledged to repeal a clause that puts a de-facto enrollment 'cap' on special needs kids at Texas school districts. kvue.com, March 6 (Texas) <https://is.gd/b5y9SJ>

90. Disability Rights Groups Oppose Obamacare Repeal. As Republicans in the House unveil details of a plan for repealing Obamacare, opposition continues to mount. Disability rights groups have been adding their voices to the mix. kpbs.org, March 7 (Washington DC) <https://is.gd/jebI0U>

91. Dems Blast Gorsuch's Record On Workers, Disability Rights. Senate Democrats on Tuesday pounced on Judge Neil Gorsuch's decision in a disability rights case involving a cancer-stricken college professor to paint the judge as an "ultraconservative" unfit for the Supreme Court, trying to foment opposition to his nomination ahead of confirmation hearings taking place later this month. Law360, March 7 (Washington DC) <https://is.gd/eNvxH4>

INTERNATIONAL ARTICLES

92. Forcing sex theory even on the intellectually disabled. The gender ideologues show no mercy to even the most helpless. Not just children, but intellectually disabled children must be harranged: Teenagers with intellectual disabilities are being exposed to complex and contentious gender and sexuality theory... Herald Sun, March 6 (Australia) <https://is.gd/ua5FRX>

93. This Website Is A TripAdvisor For People With Disabilities. For most of us, finding out whether or not a restaurant really does have the best pasta in town is just a quick Yelp search away. But if you have a disability, good quality food might not be the *only* thing on your mind. refinery29.com, March 6 (Australia) <https://is.gd/GFaACf>

94. Man on trial in Townsville for raping mentally-impaired woman. A man who allegedly raped the daughter of an ex-partner who suffers from a significant mental impairment has pleaded not guilty to two charges, a district court has heard. Townsville Bulletin, March 6 (Australia) <https://is.gd/JJ38eC>

95. NSW support services facing funding cut in NDIS transition. Justen Thomas was scared. He was alone, under arrest, and didn't understand what the police were telling him. The Sydney Morning Herald, March 5 (Australia) <https://is.gd/xeohau>

96. Wheelchair passenger finally boards but unable to use toilet. A BUDGET airline is offering an apology, and a refund, to a Gold Coast woman who suffered a string of issues on a flight from Singapore. The Courier Mail, March 8 (Australia) <https://is.gd/qnXNpV>

- 97. Winnipeg father outraged after son living with schizophrenia put in jail due to bed shortage.** Blood stains on the ceiling and broken glass remind Aziz Mohammed of the night his 21-year-old son nearly killed him. Global News, March 7 (Canada) <https://is.gd/QCdIbS>
- 98. Winnipeg woman worries brother diagnosed with schizophrenia will die in jail.** Susan Mitchell has always been by her brother's side, until his life was turned upside down. According to Mitchell, her brother James Grace was born with brain damage. He is considered a vulnerable person under provincial legislation and was also diagnosed with schizophrenia. Global News, March 8 (Canada) <https://is.gd/HgZCKa>
- 99. For persons with disabilities in Canada, education is not always an open door: CHRC report.** People with disabilities in Canada are facing overwhelming barriers and challenges within our schools, says Canada's human rights watchdog in a new study released today. Yahoo, March 9 (Canada) <https://is.gd/CCPmEb>
- 100. China: New Rules for Students with Disabilities Inadequate.** Modest Reforms Undercut by Provisions Allowing Discrimination. Human Rights Watch, March 6 (China) <https://is.gd/w1cce8>
-
- 101. Former student sues over special-needs classification.** Nenad M. claims that a false diagnosis forced him to attend a school for children with special needs. dw.com, March 7. (Germany) <https://is.gd/3cf100>
- 102. Disability groups condemn Radha Ravi's derogatory remarks.** DMK leader Kanimozhi also criticises his mocking of the disabled. The Hindu, March 4 (India) <https://is.gd/zcpCMy>
- 103. Government keen for welfare of persons with disabilities: Thaawar Chand Gehlot.** Gehlot said that the government is concerned and keen for the welfare of the persons with disabilities, and the distribution of free aids and assistive devices to such persons was a step in this direction. The Indian Express, March 5 (India) <https://is.gd/PAsZfD>
- 104. Police seek procedures for legal cases involving people with disabilities.** A committee for the protection of people with disabilities, in cooperation with the Yogyakarta Police, is composing a set of guidelines for the handling of legal cases that involve people with disabilities. The Jakarta Post, March 8 (Indonesia) <https://is.gd/dtyvua>

- 105. 'It's an insult to use down syndrome in campaign' - Irish mother's anger at pro-life handling of disability issue.** A pro choice parenting group told the Citizens' Assembly it is angered pro-life lobbyists are utilising children with down syndrome in their campaign literature against abortion. independent.ie, March 5 (Ireland) <https://is.gd/SbAupl>
- 106. Japanese Media Reports of Sagami-hara Care Home Stabbings Overlook the Disabled Victims.** Some believe that the tone of the coverage speaks to a Japanese stigma regarding disability. Global Voices, March 6 (Japan) <https://is.gd/A7BgO0>
- 107. Restraining ill prisoners outdated, inhumane – psychiatrist.** Prison staff are using outdated and inhumane techniques to deal with prisoners with acute mental health problems, and need better training, a psychiatrist says. radionz.co.nz, March 6 (New Zealand) <https://is.gd/Fvgfqd>
- 108. Police use of Taser on mentally-ill man ruled as excessive and unjustified.** The use of a Taser on a mentally-ill Auckland man was excessive and unjustified, the Independent Police Conduct Authority has found. stuff.co.nz, March 8 (New Zealand) <https://is.gd/PiQ31l>
- 109. Deaths of intellectually disabled people "misreported".** The deaths of intellectually disabled people are being incorrectly recorded in Australia, research has found, and the same problem is likely to exist in New Zealand. radionz.co.nz, March 6 (New Zealand) <https://is.gd/dn7qqo>
- 110. Handicapped Center Lourdes marks 24th year.** As it celebrates its 24th year, the Handicapped Center Lourdes has lined up activities to highlight its services to handicapped persons. Business Mirror, March 5 (Philippines) <https://is.gd/NvZhbv>
- 111. #LifeEsidimeni: Department to pay millions for psychiatric patients.** Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi revealed on Friday that the government will be forking out more than R40-million a year for 300 psychiatric patients in Gauteng as the department begins to implement the health ombudsman's recommendations. eNCA.com, March 3 (South Africa) <https://is.gd/fimaLy> (40 South African Rand equals 3.063 US Dollar)
- 112. Dubai conference to discuss integration of children with special needs into schools.** A two-day conference is to look at how children with special needs can be integrated into schools. The National, March 3 (United Arab Emirates) <https://is.gd/llnGgd>

- 113. Regulator prosecutes Liverpool care home over safety.** The Care Quality Commission brought the prosecution against the owners of Mossley Manor Care Home, following 14 offences. Nursing Time, March 6 (UK) <https://is.gd/ZFRk2A>
- 114. 'Paranoid schizophrenic' sex offender on the loose in Southwark.** A registered sex offender who suffers from paranoid schizophrenia and has breached his sexual offences prevention order is on the loose in Southwark. thisislocallondon.co.uk, March 6. (UK) <https://is.gd/6Fg9z7>
- 115. Couple with Down's syndrome were ordered to stop kissing after their behaviour was deemed 'inappropriate' by staff at the youth club where they met.** A young couple with Down's syndrome who shared a kiss at a youth club were told to stop by staff who deemed their behaviour 'inappropriate'. The Daily Mail, March 6 (UK) <https://is.gd/vg7WtY>
- 116. Body found on beach is confirmed as missing autistic student.** A body found at a beach has been confirmed as that of missing student Jer Le Leow, who has not been seen since January 12. metro.co.uk, March 8 (UK) <https://is.gd/5VICWm>
- 117. Autistic children face fears in virtual world.** Immersive technology that recreates stressful situations from everyday life is helping autistic children to overcome their anxieties and phobias. The Times, March 4 (UK) <https://is.gd/OTCKCg>
- 118. Cash boost for pupils with special needs and disability.** Schools in England are to receive a cash boost to help improve facilities for children with special educational needs and disabilities. BBC.com, March. (UK) <https://is.gd/l83QQw>
- 119. Autistic supermarket worker 'murdered by pair over Facebook picture of woman jumping over penis statues'.** Christopher Pollard and John Dickson are accused of murdering Carl Gregory over a social media row. Mirror, March 7 (UK) <https://is.gd/R15MeL>
- 120. Why is gendercide wrong and screening for Down syndrome okay, advocates ask.** Is it ok to abort a baby who has been diagnosed with Down syndrome? What about if you find out the baby is a girl, and you wanted a boy? catholicnewsagency.com, March 4 (UK) <https://is.gd/juvBO0>

121. End humiliating restraint of mentally ill people, say charities.

'Traumatising' practice is more likely to be used on women and girls. The Guardian, March 5 (UK) <https://is.gd/gae1JC>

122. Woman with Down's syndrome to become France's newest

weather presenter. Mélanie Ségard, 21, has always wanted to be a weather girl but always thought it wouldn't be possible because of her disability. Metro.co.uk, March 4 (UK) <https://is.gd/6lmmT>

123. DEFEND MENTALLY ILL INMATES, PAN URGES LEGAL SYSTEM. THE

Paralegal Alliance Network (PAN) Zambia has lamented the failure by the justice system in the country to protect the mentally and intellectually challenged persons in society. Times of Zambia, March 5 (Zambia) <https://is.gd/t7BeOn>