

Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of March 31- April 6, 2017

Articles Compiled by Jennifer Palmer
Commentary by Nora J. Baladerian, Ph.D.,
Editing and Posting by Thomas F. Coleman

This week's newsfeed contains the usual categories listed below with recommendations for reading selected articles. (Articles are identified by their number in the list. The list is arranged alphabetically by state within each category.) Many thanks to Jennifer Palmer for creating this newsfeed.

Sexual Abuse: 11, 17

Physical Abuse: 9

Neglect: 2, 3

Financial Abuse: 2,8

Murder: 14, 15

Verbal Abuse: 6

Abuse by (total # of articles): by Carers: five, by students: one; by school: one

Age of abuser: youngest: 17 years of age, oldest: 60 years of age

Guardianship: 21, 60

Of special interest, be sure to read:

Education related: 25,38,59,64

Rights: 18, 61, 66

Employment for people with disabilities: 78

ABUSE/NEGLECT

1. **Rights groups sue BART over 'filthy' elevators, broken escalators.** BART's disgusting elevators, often sprayed with urine and populated with piles of poop, are unpleasant for everyone. But for people with disabilities, who have no choice but to use them, they're a civil rights violation, according to a lawsuit filed Wednesday. sfgate.com, April 5 (California) <https://is.gd/lx0efa>
2. **Live Oak man charged with elderly neglect, exploitation.** The Suwannee County Sheriff's Office charged John Stuart Harrelson with exploitation of elderly person

or disabled adult and neglect of an elderly person or disabled adult on March 24. suwanneedemocrat.com, March 31 (Florida) <https://is.gd/MSzLeJ>

3. **Mother of boy with autism left on school bus in 2016 filing lawsuit.** The mother of a boy with autism who was left on a Polk County school bus twice last year is now filing a lawsuit. The child was left on the bus asleep after other students exited. abcactionnews.com, April 5 (Florida) <https://is.gd/6RLG8L>
4. **Moline veteran's wheelchair lift stolen.** Crime Stoppers are looking for help from the community to identify who took a wheelchair lift from a Moline military veteran. kwqc.com, April 3 (Illinois) <https://is.gd/Z30InV>
5. **What happened to the Aurora man who was pardoned by Gov. Carnahan?** Johnny Lee Wilson, 51 years old, steps out the front door of the Aurora home he shares with his mother, who has already told us that it's best to leave the past in the past. news-leader.com, April 1 (Illinois) <https://is.gd/5GeN5j>
6. **Wakefield School Investigates Slurs Against Student With Down Syndrome.** A Massachusetts teenager is speaking out after she says she and her sister have been the subject of ridicule at their high school. The 15-year-old Wakefield High School freshman did not want to be publicly identified, but told NBC Boston that on Monday, other students were making fun of her 17-year-old sister who has Down syndrome. necn.com, April 4 (Massachusetts) <https://is.gd/3W3pT5>
7. **Bellevue group home resident attacks caretaker.** Bellevue police arrest a man for allegedly attacking a caretaker inside of a group home on Tuesday night. ketv.com, April 5 (Nebraska) <https://is.gd/mj1I35>
8. **Guilty Plea Entered In Guardianship Abuse Case.** They're supposed to be responsible for taking care of people with special needs. One person is accused of doing the unthinkable and taking advantage of a special needs person. lasvegas.cbslocal.com, April 5 (Nevada) <https://is.gd/6gzCYH>
9. **Former worker admits to throwing disabled person to ground.** A former employee of St. Anne Institute in Albany has pleaded guilty to picking up a disabled resident under his care and throwing her to the ground in 2015, according to the state Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs. timesunion.com, April 3 (New York) <https://is.gd/tGw69d>
10. **Cops: Western NY Man in Wheelchair Fatally Shoots His Father.** Authorities say a man who uses a wheelchair has been charged with fatally shooting his 54-year-old father inside the suspect's suburban Buffalo home. usnews.com, April 5 (New York) <https://is.gd/gF2Y60>

11. **Group home worker faces sex charges.** A man who works at a group home has been charged with having sex with a woman in the home, according to arrest warrants. wral.com April 5 (North Carolina) <https://is.gd/GYEaCn>
12. **Man dies at NC psychiatric hospital of apparent suicide.** A patient at the state-run psychiatric hospital in Butner was found dead early Tuesday morning of an apparent suicide. newsobserver.com, March 31 (North Carolina) <https://is.gd/ji8W7B>
13. **DHS group homes are riddled with assault, crime and chaos, officials claim.** Children who were sexually assaulted after running away from state custody, attacks on staff members and hundreds of calls to police are just some of the problems that the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth claims exist in at least two state-contracted group homes for troubled youths. tulsaworld.com, April 2 (Oklahoma) <https://is.gd/NpxNCr>
14. **Group home loses license. Hubbard Road Meadows Adult Group Home is closing for good.** The facility, 2358 Hubbard Road, permanently lost its license on Thursday, following the January death of a resident officials attributed to patient abuse. starbeacon.com, March 31 (Ohio) <https://is.gd/DKxtv7>
15. **Second teen pleads guilty in fatal group home beating.** The second of two teenagers charged in the beating death of a fellow resident of a Pittsburgh group home as pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter. washingtontimes.com, April 3 (Pennsylvania) <https://is.gd/Tk4zVU>
16. **State treasury opens savings program for people with disabilities.** The Pennsylvania Treasury on Monday announced the opening of a savings program for people with disabilities and their families. post-gazette.com, April 4 (Pennsylvania) <https://is.gd/0HtmQY>
17. **Three men indicted for assaults on children, disabled person.** Three Mid-County men have been indicted by a Jefferson County Grand Jury in separate cases on charges ranging from physical to sexual violence against children and, in one of the cases, against an intellectually challenged 20-year-old. theexaminer.com, March 30 (Texas) <https://is.gd/44iw8A>

IMPROVED SUPPORTS

18. **Texas Can No Longer Fabricate Its Own Medical Standards To Justify Executions. In A 5-3 Decision,** the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday concluded that current medical standards must be considered when determining whether a defendant facing the death penalty is intellectually disabled and thus barred from execution under the Eighth Amendment. theintercept.com, March 31 (Texas) <https://is.gd/sFC86z>

19. **After Supreme Court sides with convicted murderer, victim's niece and lawyers consider what's next.** The niece of a 1980 murder victim said Thursday that she is "accepting the inevitable" two days after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Texas courts must reconsider whether a convicted murderer is intellectually disabled, which would exempt him from the death penalty. houstonchronicle.com, March 31 (Texas) <https://is.gd/u0dBAE>
20. **Many government websites frustrate those with disabilities.** Astrophysicist Wanda Diaz-Merced doesn't need a new study to know that many U.S. government websites are not easily accessible to persons with disabilities. sciencemag.org, April 5 <https://is.gd/Qo5Dlc>
21. **People With Autism Have Right to Autonomy Too.** Guardianship laws meant to protect people with autism actually deprive them of their basic rights and autonomy, according to experts on a UN panel. military-technologies.net, April 2 <https://is.gd/IIVbXG>
22. **'Sesame Street' episode with autistic character will be available free online.** Julia makes her debut April 10 on HBO, YouTube. abcactionnews.com, April 5 <https://is.gd/bnEtIG>
23. **Experts want special clinics to prescribe ketamine as antidepressant.** The party drug ketamine can have powerful beneficial effects on severely depressed patients who have struggled for years to recover, and the drug should be developed responsibly as a psychiatric medicine, British experts said on Thursday. Nasdaq.com, April 5 <https://is.gd/DxkYM2>
24. **Learning, as an adult woman, you have autism.** Laura James, 47, is a successful journalist and author. She's a wife to Tim and mother to four adult children. She likes fashion, cats and writing. She's eloquent and quick-witted. She also has autism. cnn.com, April 2 <https://is.gd/V7ibJw>
25. **Mother of deaf 8-year-old says school system won't provide sign language interpreter.** The parent of a deaf child says the school district is trying to deny her son access to a sign language interpreter. al.com, March 31 (Alabama) <https://is.gd/faWknv>
26. **Betty Heath: Mentally disabled ... or dyslexic?** Suppose we take a trip to an elementary school in a small town in America. There we find a young boy sitting in the hall. timescall.com, April 1 (Colorado) <https://is.gd/cuHXa2>
27. **Autism students' attendance record hurt for going to therapy sessions.** Therapy is a must for children diagnosed with autism, but some parents said getting them there is a challenge. That's because in some cases, leaving school for therapy

could impact a child's attendance record at school. wftv.com, April 4 (Florida)
<https://is.gd/xFplx2>

28. **Man Helps Amputee Up Stairs, Then Returns To Build Ramp.** After spending days in the hospital, Jennifer Austin was just happy to be heading home after her husband Don underwent a partial leg amputation. abc7chicago.com, April 5 (Illinois)
<https://is.gd/AOFiLO>
29. **Hospital access complaint could go to court: Disability advocates say Hilo Medical Center not doing enough.** Disability advocates are considering a lawsuit against Hilo Medical Center after an Americans with Disabilities Act complaint failed to get the U.S. Department of Justice involved. Nonprofit advocacy organization Disability Rights Hawaii says it has been fighting for better hospital access since 1995. hawaii-tribune-herald.com, April 3 (Hawaii). <https://is.gd/8cXTa2>
30. **Fundraising efforts help deaf children learn coding.** Hundreds of children and adults packed the Neil Armstrong Hall of Engineering on Sunday in an effort to raise funds to change the future of deaf children. jconline.com, April 2 (Indiana)
<https://is.gd/Vlkrjq>
31. **Veteran stands thanks to new wheelchair.** United States Army and Air Force veteran Kimberly Marasz is getting a new lease on life after a car accident left her paralyzed from the waist down. Thanks to the Topeka VA, Marasz is getting a new wheelchair, one that has the power to help her stand. ksnt.com, March 30 (Kansas)
<https://is.gd/HOssUk>
32. **Before early education, a lonely road for those with special needs: Lawyer, family surmounted challenges, effected change.** Dennis Cabbage was born at a time when little was done for children with special needs, except to whisk them away to an institution, where they were marginalized and often forgotten. hutchnews.com, March 2 (Kansas) <https://is.gd/Jcl0d0>
33. **Survey shows expanding preschool popular with Eudora school district parents.** The Eudora school district is looking to expand preschool enrollment on the heels of a survey that indicates great support from parents for such opportunities. ljworld.com, April 3 (Kansas) <https://is.gd/y9ceIX>
34. **Urinary biomarkers may help identify OSA in children with Down syndrome.** A study from Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) investigators raises the possibility of identifying children with Down syndrome who may also have obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) without the need for expensive and inconvenient sleep studies. news-medical.net, April 6 (Massachusetts) <https://is.gd/3G0hEO>

35. **Minnesota mom's plea for autistic son strikes a chord with thousands on Facebook.** Kate Swenson's video, which details a playground confrontation with other parents, has been watched more than 300,000 times on Facebook. startribune.com, April 4 (Minnesota) <https://is.gd/t0x9e2>
36. **New program hopes to help those with developmental disabilities get back behind the wheel.** A program aims to help people who have a developmental disability go in the right direction. nebraska.tv, April 5 (Nebraska) <https://is.gd/ZCKMhi>
37. **Blind athletes compete in goalball tournament at UNO.** Silence is something you rarely experience during a spectator sport, but in the game of goalball, it's a necessity. ketv.com, April 2 (Nebraska) <https://is.gd/w3PC0i>
38. **New rules mean reports of child restraint are on the rise.** There were 1,585 incidents of restraint in New Hampshire schools last academic year, according to data collected by the state department of education. concordmonitor.com, April 1 (New Hampshire) <https://is.gd/TsRH1w>
39. **Electronic Glasses Open New World For Legally Blind South Jersey Boy.** Nine-year-old John Paul Corman, who is legally blind, is now experiencing the world through a device called eSight. It processes images in real-time and allows John Paul to focus where he's looking. philadelphia.cbslocal.com, April 2 (New Jersey) <https://is.gd/uUYLH9>
40. **OP-ED: Challenged By School-Funding Do-Over?** The hot-button issue of the day is fairness in school funding. Parents want better programs and services for their kids; businesses need highly skilled workers; and taxpayers are concerned with ever-growing property-tax burdens. njspotlight.com, April 3 (New Jersey) <https://is.gd/wa5Nf4>
41. **Anderson Center looks to build future for those with autism.** When Michael R. first came to the Anderson Center for Autism, he was constantly on the move. His constant running, climbing, and jumping made it difficult for the then 8-year-old to focus. poughkeepsiejournal.com, April 5 (New York) <https://is.gd/gFjY8k>
42. **Special needs, busing, trauma: 5 questions parents asked Syracuse school board.** Special needs, busing and trauma were all discussed at a community forum hosted by the Syracuse school board last night. The forum was the second of its kind, held this time at the Public Service Leadership Academy at Fowler High School. syracuse.com, March 30 (New York) <https://is.gd/UPBEqF>
43. **Pender County murder trial for intellectually challenged man begins.** An argument over respect preceded a deadly 2013 Hampstead shooting, a Pender County

Sheriff's Office deputy said Friday during the murder trial of Vincent Edward Smith Jr. greensboro.com, April 1 (North Carolina) <https://is.gd/vV3ZDq>

44. **House Bill Concerns Oklahomans With Disabilities.** When Erin Taylor heard about the proposed HOPE act, HB1270, she had anything but. The mother of a son with disabilities, they depend on the very services the act could make it harder to receive. news9.com, April 4 (Oklahoma) <https://is.gd/YUGU5s>
45. **Niles enacts standards and guidelines for group homes.** Earlier this week we reported on problems surrounding a group home in Goshen Township. Just days later, city leaders from two different communities in Trumbull county are hoping to make a preemptive strike-and keep similar problems from arising in their neighborhoods. wfmj.com, April 5 (Ohio) <https://is.gd/DpoRyq>
46. **Police: Girls escaped group home and attacked man in Green Twp.** Police said three teenage girls from a nearby group home assaulted two Green Township firefighters Monday morning but to neighbors and officers, issues with residents from the home are nothing new. wytv.com, April3 (Ohio) <https://is.gd/tEWiwR>
47. **Nationwide to offer free legal aid to disabled.** Starting Monday, Ohioans with disabilities can turn to a new legal services program for help navigating the Medicaid appeals process. dispatch.com, March 31 (Ohio) <https://is.gd/wti4i9>
48. **Integrated studies program creates new opportunities for disabled students.** Speakers from Millersville University (MU) gave a special presentation in Shippensburg University's Old Main Chapel on Tuesday to introduce a one-of-a-kind disabilities program to the Shippensburg community. Speakers from Millersville University (MU) gave a special presentation in Shippensburg University's Old Main Chapel on Tuesday to introduce a one-of-a-kind disabilities program to the Shippensburg community. theslateonline.com, April 2 (Pennsylvania) <https://is.gd/89xdb6>
49. **North Texas Fire Department Launches Database for Special Needs Residents.** The Burleson Fire Department is rolling out a program it thinks will save lives, especially those with special needs. The Special Needs Assistance Program is a voluntary database of people with special needs within the community. nbcdfw.com, April 4 (Texas) <https://is.gd/aWhrPD>
50. **WSU fraternity to make house wheelchair accessible for paralyzed brother.** A fraternity at Washington State University plans to make its chapter house wheelchair accessible following an accident that paralyzed a member in January. krem.com, March 30 (Washington) <https://is.gd/y15KyA>

LAWS/LEGISLATION

51. **Businesses, Disability Rights Groups Reach Compromise In Bill.** Nearly a year ago, businesses across the Valley started getting hit with lawsuits over parking violations stemming from the Americans with Disabilities Act. Businesses wanted to stop that from happening again and disability rights groups wanted to protect their civil rights, so a compromise was cobbled together in the Arizona Legislature. kjzz.org, March 31 (Arizona) <https://is.gd/8DKA9O>
52. **State requires Alhambra Unified to give special education students more time in mainstream classrooms.** The state's education department has directed the Alhambra Unified School District to improve its special education program by giving those students more time in classrooms with other students. Federal law requires that students with disabilities be assimilated into classrooms with their nondisabled peers to the "maximum extent possible." pasadenastarnews.com, April 5 (California) <https://is.gd/f5NvuP>
53. **The Coming Voting Rights Battle: Access Vs. Accountability.** More Important: Being Able to Vote, or Ensuring Your Vote Is Counted Correctly? whowhatwhy.org, April 4 (California) <https://is.gd/SP3cKa>
54. **A Right-Left Cure for Disabilities Torts.** ADA lawsuits have doubled in five years, and six firms file 81%. wsj.com, March 30 (California) <https://is.gd/b1VDgH>
55. **Disability rights group files complaint vs. RCS.** An education due process complaint has been filed against Richmond Community Schools regarding recess and use of playground equipment at Crestdale Elementary. pal-item.com, April 3 (Indiana) <https://is.gd/TfiZzB>
56. **Vote on school start times delayed to address special education busing.** A parent and teacher at two Des Moines schools are so frustrated about a potential change to school hours that they accused school board members of treating their special education students as an "afterthought." desmoinesregister.com, April 4 (Iowa) <https://is.gd/rvnFmm>
57. **Lawmakers Consider Emergency Measures to Increase Pay for Direct Support Professionals.** Since 2007, the rate of pay for people providing care to our state's most vulnerable citizens has decreased. So lawmakers are considering emergency measures to prevent a collapse of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Service System here in Maine. wabi.tv, April 3 (Maine) <https://is.gd/OJRy9p>

58. **Parent of special needs student speaks to governor, school board.** Laura Martins, parent of a special needs student, talked about concerns during the Warrensburg School Board meeting at Reese Education Center. "I'm very passionate about special needs," she told the board. [dailyjournal.com](https://is.gd/spkfpX), March 30 (Missouri) <https://is.gd/spkfpX>
59. **Gov. Martinez signs bill limiting physical restraints of students.** Gov. Susana Martinez on Sunday signed into law a bill that restricts the use of physical restraint and seclusion on public school students, techniques that predominantly have been used to address behavioral issues of children with autism and other disabilities. [santafenewmexican.com](https://is.gd/rnqhb6), April 2 (New Mexico) <https://is.gd/rnqhb6>
60. **Nevada high court presses for greater guardianship oversight.** The Nevada Supreme Court is proposing legislation to increase oversight of court-appointed guardians who watch over the state's most vulnerable residents. [elkodaily.com](https://is.gd/RASn8l), March 30 (Nevada) <https://is.gd/RASn8l>
61. **Oregon Senate OKs bill to form disabled-rights panel.** Many states have commissions or agencies dedicated to adjudicating the rights of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Oregon has no such commission. But the state Senate voted Tuesday to pass Senate Bill 834, to help solve this problem. [ktvz.com](https://is.gd/59CaCG), April 5 (Oregon) <https://is.gd/59CaCG>
62. **Tennessee company that treats autistic kids settles fraud claims.** Federal prosecutors say a Hendersonville-based company that provides therapy services for kids with autism has agreed to pay \$20,000 to settle claims that it fraudulently billed a military health program. [timesfreepress.com](https://is.gd/Q1wqNW), April 4 (Tennessee) <https://is.gd/Q1wqNW>
63. **Texas Legislature Begins Work on Special Education Overhaul.** State lawmakers have begun working on a series of bills overhauling special education in Texas. [usnews.com](https://is.gd/KDQU14), April 4 (Texas) <https://is.gd/KDQU14>
64. **Texas lawmakers discuss bill to prohibit special education 'cap'.** Texas lawmakers are taking steps to ban a controversial cap on how many public school students get special education services. [kagstv.com](https://is.gd/Ed0cwv), April 6 (Texas) <https://is.gd/Ed0cwv>
65. **The Supreme Court Decision to Protect People With an Intellectual Disability From Execution Was Long Overdue.** In 2002, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Atkins v. Virginia* that the government could no longer execute people with an intellectual disability, then called "mental retardation," because the practice violated the Eighth Amendment. [aclu.org](https://is.gd/5SG4lw), April 3 (Virginia) <https://is.gd/5SG4lw>

66. **Disability Rights group files complaint against DHHR.** Disability Rights of West Virginia, the state's designated Protection and Advocacy System for disabilities, has filed a civil complaint against the Department of Health and Human Resources. register-herald.com, March 31 (West Virginia) <https://is.gd/xbtluH>
67. **Home care worker industry in crisis, impacting group homes.** For those who are paid to care for the physically or developmentally disabled and the elderly in their Racine County homes, the personal care worker industry across the state is imploding and those they serve are suffering from the ramifications, according to those who work in the industry and advocates. journaltimes.com, April 2 (Wisconsin) <https://is.gd/Z00KaA>

INTERNATIONAL

68. **Deaf girl beaten by family for her faith.** A young Deaf girl in Central Asia whom we'll call Saida was recently hospitalized after her family learned about her Christian faith and beat her. mnnonline.org, April 3 <https://is.gd/vhPgyk>
69. **Sharing Smiles Day breaks barriers between dentists and people with developmental disabilities.** On April 8 people with developmental disabilities will come face-to-face with dentists throughout the region as they participate in Sharing Smiles Day. The student-led event takes place at the University of Alberta and is designed to promote oral hygiene and break down barriers between dentists and people with disabilities. stalbertgazette.com, April 5 (Canada) <https://is.gd/rNBcB5>
70. **Overhaul planned for \$1-billion Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped system.** A program supporting Alberta's severely handicapped is getting overhauled to deal with problems plaguing the \$1-billion system. edmontonsun.com, April 6 (Canada) <https://is.gd/q2pPQQ>
71. **Mother pulls daughter from school after she was repeatedly restrained.** "I took her out of school because Charlie was being restrained every day or every other day. Its like an ongoing thing," Karen Marr told CityNews in her Etobicoke home. citynews.ca, April 4 (Canada) <https://is.gd/ERd4OE>
72. **Man with paranoid schizophrenia found not criminally responsible for killing father in Halifax apartment.** A man formerly of Labrador was found not criminally responsible last week in the January 2016 stabbing death of his father in Halifax, N.S. Elias Lampe, 21, was arrested January 21, 2016 following the murder of his father, Frank John Lampe, earlier that day. metronews.ca, April 2 (Canada) <https://is.gd/ggQhAk>

73. **Families with autistic children seek better public awareness.** April 2nd marks World Autism Day — a chance to learn more about a condition that affects one in 68 children, and what life is like for families impacted by it. globalnews.ca, March 2 (Canada) <https://is.gd/Xr4pKz>
74. **What it means to be autistic.** KOCHI: Have you ever seen a child suddenly throw a tantrum for no apparent reason in the middle of a crowded mall? newindianexpress.com, April 1 (India) <https://is.gd/tl4NmW>
75. **Digital push must be disability-inclusive.** As India catapults towards a digital economy, making ICT accessible to the disabled is a must. thehindu.com, April 3 (India) <https://is.gd/create.php>
76. **Autistic woman shows improvement after brain surgery in Mumbai.** Pamela Mehra had been diagnosed with autism at age three, and later also with epilepsy. She also showed signs of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), aggression, and was virtually mute, communicating only through sign language. thehindu.com, April 2 (India) <https://is.gd/RzGLNz>
77. **'It means so much - it's equality for deaf people'**. The founder of a deaf charity based in Dungiven said they're seeing an increase in the demand from front line services and businesses for deaf awareness training. derryjournal.com, March 31 (Ireland) <https://is.gd/nDRDSL>
78. **More firms giving disabled workers key roles.** Japanese companies are working to assign intellectually disabled workers key positions as they seek to create more diverse workplaces. Dai-ichi Life Challenged Co. introduced a system in 2011 enabling people with disabilities to take leadership positions as a means of boosting their morale. japantimes.co.jp, April 4 (Japan) <https://is.gd/sv8tiW>
79. **CYF struggles to find home for violent, intellectually-disabled teen.** An intellectually-disabled teenager is heavily sedated in a mental health unit because Child, Youth and Family (CYF) cannot find anywhere else for him to go. One former carer said CYF raised the possibility of placing the 15 year old, who has Down syndrome, in an "adult men's lockup or a motel with two security guards" after recent violent behaviour. stuff.co.nz, March 31 (New Zealand) stuff.co.nz
80. **Mother of disabled boy, 5, tells of her disgust after a play centre manager bans his motorised wheelchair, saying: 'go-karts are not allowed.'** A mother has told of her outrage after her disabled son was asked to leave a play area because he was using a motorised wheelchair. dailymail.co.uk, April 5 (UK) ' <https://is.gd/pMKzZt>

81. **After Sex Trafficking Arrests, Questions Surround State Protections For Mentally Ill.** Two of the victims of an alleged prostitution ring that forced mentally ill and drug-addicted men to perform sexual favors for older men had lived in a state-funded, privately run apartment house that offers treatment and a chance at independent living. [courant.com](https://is.gd/1vjyHp), March 31 (UK) <https://is.gd/1vjyHp>
82. **Disabled boy, seven, is tipped out of his wheelchair after getting stuck in a giant pothole.** A disabled boy was left 'very shaken up' after tumbling out of his wheelchair when it got stuck in a pothole. [dailyemail.co.uk](https://is.gd/TpyuVI), April 2 (UK) <https://is.gd/TpyuVI>
83. **Woman who stole £1200 from vulnerable Galston woman she cared for is jailed.** Lorna Stewart pleaded guilty to stealing £1210 between March 1 and October 7 last year while employed. [dailyrecord.co.uk](https://is.gd/vwvonA), April 5 (UK) <https://is.gd/vwvonA>
£1200=1494.84 US dollars
84. **Sex ring lured mentally-ill men after getting them addicted to drugs, court papers show.** About 15 people in their twenties suffering from illnesses such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder are alleged to have been made to prostitute themselves [independent.co.uk](https://is.gd/Eqpp30), April 2 (UK) <https://is.gd/Eqpp30>
85. **Jail for attacker, Thomas Junior Marshall, who put victim in hospital.** A workman with Asperger's Syndrome has been jailed for breaking a man's chestbone and putting him in intensive care. [yorkpress.co.uk](https://is.gd/GoGkhs), April 2 (UK) <https://is.gd/GoGkhs>
86. **Man has to eat 'half frozen food' and says he's been treated 'like dirt' by Margate carers.** A man with learning difficulties has spoken of how he receives so little support by a Margate care agency that he has to eaten half frozen food. Albert Harvey, who suffers from epilepsy and Asperger's, says he is spoken to "like dirt" by carers and spends "day-in, day-out" on his own without the care he needs. [kentlive.news](https://is.gd/NmUAUw), April 3 (UK) <https://is.gd/NmUAUw>
87. **British Robot Helping Autistic Children With Their Social Skills.** "This is nice, it tickles me," Kaspar the social robot tells four-year-old Finn as they play together at an autism school north of London. [usnews.com](https://is.gd/NVXcgR), March 31 (UK) <https://is.gd/NVXcgR>
88. **Out and about with autism: 'If a baby starts crying, we have to leave'**
Parents of autistic children face major challenges whenever they go outside. Here, a mother of autistic twins explains how she and her family cope when they leave the house – and what members of the public can do to help. [theguardian.com](https://is.gd/dtlquU), March 31 (UK) <https://is.gd/dtlquU>