

# Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of December 15 to December 21, 2018

Articles Compiled by Debra J. Stemmler

Editing and Commentary by Nora J. Baladerian, Ph.D.,

Posting by Thomas F. Coleman

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:**

### Abuse and Neglect:

Sexual Assault: 6, 11, 16, 18, 24, 36, 41, 48, 50, 55

Physical Abuse: 15, 17, 20, 21, 23, 25, 26, 27, 38, 41, 52

Emotional/Verbal Abuse: 41

Financial Abuse: 1, 13, 19

Murder: 3, 8, 10, 12, 49, 54

Neglected: 7, 19, 20

Kept Enclosed: 25, 51

Related to special education: 2, 4, 22, 25, 27

Related to social media: 53

**WINNER of most egregious award:** 2: Special education programs to be investigated; 19: Executives of Assisted Living Center steal, abuse & neglect.

**WINNER of “good job” award:** 45: Disabled women speak up to be believed.

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

Family: 12, 23, 26, 49, 50, 55

Carer: 3, 10, 13, 17, 20 38, 41

Co-resident: 8, 15

Stranger: 21, 52

Special education: 25, 27

Hospital: 51

Nursing Home: 3, 11, 19, 38, 41

Prison: 7

**Good News:** 9: Another call to stop electroshock at Judge Rotenberg Center by international body; 32: Schools (bill proposed) not to engage in restraint of students either physically or medically; 35: Program offers help for victims of violence with disabilities.

**Bad News:** 5: Study: increase in residential services reveal neglect; 6: sexual assault of patients and workers at residential program; 39: High rate of deaths by choking by service providers; 44: Study finds high rate of abuse in women’s hostels.

**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. “Alaska Man Allegedly Formed Sham Collection Agency to Steal from Elderly Woman” - A man from Sterling, Alaska, has been indicted by a Minnehaha County grand jury on one count of attempted aggravated grand theft by deception. Kent Lee Tompkins, 49, was arrested for allegedly forming a sham collection agency in an attempt to steal more than \$700,000 from an elderly person. It is also alleged that the defendant was successful in stealing \$40,000. – The Daily Republic – December 19, 2018 – (Alaska) - <https://is.gd/fjYqHP>
2. “Special Ed. Advocates Call for Investigation into Unlicensed Company Serving Charter Students” - Advocates have expressed alarm over a number of features of the program, including the quality of services it provides and its lack of identifiable accreditation. Combined with its low profile, these characteristics have raised worries that, by placing students in the program, participating charters are keeping special education students “out of sight, out of mind.” - Washington City Paper – December 19, 2018 – (D.C.) - <https://is.gd/qXplZ8>
3. “Neglected: Florida Nursing Home Workers Avoid Criminal Charges in Neglect, Abuse Deaths” - More than a year after a criminal investigation began into the deaths of 12 patients left in the sweltering heat of a Hollywood nursing home, no one has been charged with a crime. – News – Press – December 14, 2018 – (Florida) – <https://is.gd/9PZ9S5>
4. “Family Wins Lawsuit Against Carmel-Clay Schools for Special Needs Student's Education” - Brandi Wetherald says administrators with Carmel-Clay schools told her back in May that they could no longer provide an

education for her 17-year-old son with special needs, and that she would need to send her son to a residential facility in order for him to receive an education. - RTV6 Indianapolis – December 14, 2018 – (Indiana) - <https://is.gd/50fLoW>

5. “Caregiver Neglect and Abuse May Happen More Often During Holiday Season” - With the National Center of Elder Abuse reporting as many as 5 million people affected by elder abuse per year, and more than 95 percent of which go unreported, it remains an understatement to say nursing home abuse and neglect are a growing concern. And during the busy holiday season, when there are [not enough employees](#) to take care of the needs of all the residents and care workers become easily distracted with personal activities, the incidences of abuse and neglect will sadly trend upward. – Illinois Nursing Home Blog – December 14, 2018 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/FQeNG6>
  
6. “Lawsuit Alleges Sexual Abuse of Workers, Patients at Pewee Valley Nursing Home” Four woman have come forward with disturbing allegations that a Pewee Valley nursing home worker sexually abused them. They’ve filed a lawsuit against Friendship Health and Rehab, which they claim enabled an employee who was sexually abusing co-workers and patients– Wave 3 News- December 14, 2018 – (Kentucky) - <https://is.gd/QnGCcM>
  
7. “Investigation into Inmate's Suicide Faults Maryland Women's Prison's Treatment of People with Disabilities” - An investigation into Maryland’s only prison for women following the 2017 suicide of an inmate found the

facility violated the constitutional rights of individuals with disabilities who are placed in segregation and did not take sufficient steps to “prevent future harm.” – The Baltimore Sun – December 19, 2018 – (Maryland) - <https://is.gd/oCwxe8>

8. “Resident of Group Home Slain in Prince George’s, Roommate Charged, Police Say” – A resident of a group home in Prince George’s County for persons with mental health problems was found fatally stabbed on Saturday and his roommate was arrested, the county police said. - The Washington Post – December 18, 2018 – (Maryland) - <https://is.gd/ghug1w>
  
9. “Human Rights Body Calls on US school to ban electric shocks on children” - An international body entrusted with upholding human rights across the Americas has called for an immediate ban on the controversial use of electric shocks on severely disabled children in a school outside Boston. – The Guardian – December 18, 2018 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/pYQ9hk>
  
10. “Two People Arrested in Connection to Vulnerable Adult Death” - Michigan State Police arrested two people accused of being involved in a vulnerable adult’s death in Otsego County. Shawn Winkelman was the caregiver to 66-year-old, Howard Quick. After Quick was brought to the hospital for injuries due to neglect, Adult Protective Services and police got involved. – 9 and 10 News – December 19, 2018 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/vGM0eU>
  
11. “1 in Custody After Sexual Assault at Detroit Nursing Home, Police Say” - One person has been taken into custody after a sexual assault at a Detroit nursing home, according to officials. – Click on Detroit – December 14, 2018 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/7pFJM3>

12. "The Quiet Acceptance of 'Mercy Killings' in the US: Even in States Where Euthanasia is Illegal, Courts are Often Turning a Blind Eye" - On Wednesday, a [man in Clinton, Mississippi](#), shot and killed his wife of over 40 years at a rehabilitation center in a suspected mercy killing. – The Blaze – December 14, 2018 – (Mississippi) - <https://is.gd/zfH1RX>
  
13. "Coleridge, Nebraska Woman Accused of Financially Exploiting Vulnerable Adult" - 28-year-old Kayla Renee Hansen was taken into custody by Cedar County authorities. According to the Cedar County sheriff's office, Hansen stole more than \$14,000 dollars from a victim she was meant to care for. – KTIV – December 14, 2018 – (Nebraska) - <https://is.gd/zZkRoR>
  
14. "Employee Who Abused Mentally Disabled Could See Parole" - Patients at the Beatrice State Development Center, a facility for mentally disabled, were abused by a handful of employees beginning in 2011. Five employees went to jail for the abuse. Later this month, the last of the accused may be released from prison. – WOWT- December 17, 2018 – (Nebraska) - <https://is.gd/NGLTRX>
  
15. "Police: 7 People Assaulted at Group Home on Dewey Avenue" - Rochester Police said they were called to a DePaul group home on Dewey Avenue for the report of a man assaulting other residents. – WHAM – December 14, 2018 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/PLZstV>
  
16. "Charges Filed Against Man Accused of Raping Mentally Disabled Person" - According to Bristol Township Police Department, Freeman is wanted for rape of a mentally disabled person, involuntary deviate sexual intercourse person with a mental disability, involuntary deviate sexual

intercourse forcible compulsion, indecent assault forcible compulsion, and indecent assault of a person with a mental disability. – WFMZ- TV- December 17, 2018 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/AP4bgE>

17. “Police: Boarding home employee charged with Abuse of Vulnerable Adult”- Investigators revealed that Brown assaulted a 58-year-old female vulnerable adult by choking and pinching her and by using force to remove her from a wheelchair, Ollic added. -News 2 – December 18, 2018 – (South Carolina)- <https://is.gd/qvM8KF>

18. “Judge Reduces Sentence for Lookout Mountain Man Convicted of Having Illegal Sex with Disabled Adult” - At the request of the victim's family, Superior Court Judge Don Thompson reduced the sentence for a Lookout Mountain man convicted of having an illegal sexual relationship with a person with severe autism. – Times Free Press – December 13, 2018 – (Tennessee) - <https://is.gd/Focnjw>

19. “Executives Who Oversaw City's Assisted Living Center Arrested for Theft”- Mike Hampton, who was contracted by the city to run the adult daycare in 2014, was charged with one count of theft over \$60,000; one count of theft over \$10,000; and 44 counts of willful abuse, neglect or exploitation of a vulnerable adult. -Tennessean – December 15, 2018 – (Tennessee) - <https://is.gd/8UWea0>

20. “Spitting, Shoving and Marijuana: Stones River Center Group Homes Investigated 72 times in 5 Years” - The Stones River Center, an agency responsible for a set of 10 Murfreesboro group homes, has been investigated 72 times over the past five years for claims of neglect and

abuse – Daily News Journal – December 17, 2018- (Tennessee) - <https://is.gd/wFFBLv>

21. “Pair Injures Woman, 82, in Fight Over Handicapped Parking Space, Police Say” - Taylor Jones, 26, and Jennifer Ousley, 28, were both charged with injury to an elderly individual, a third-degree felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison. Jones and Ousley both said the victim beat them with a cane but video surveillance showed that did not happen, the affidavit says. – Statesman – December 14, 2018 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/dPxjs0>
  
22. “Parents vs. Schools: Special Education Disputes on the Rise” - 8News has uncovered special education disputes in Virginia public schools are on the rise -- and these disputes can take a toll on families. – ABC 8 News – December 13, 2018 – (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/u602xY>
  
23. “Waynesboro couple going to prison for abusing teen” -Brad E. Young, 40, and his wife, Natrina P. Johnson, 37, were arrested by the Waynesboro Police Department in February after police were informed that Johnson's 14-year-old son was being abused. – The News Virginian – December 13, 2018 – (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/lrMvmQ>
  
24. “Portsmouth Man Gets 36 Years for Sexually Abusing Disabled Man” - A man convicted of assaulting his ex-wife and sexually abusing a mentally disabled man is facing more than three decades in prison. – WAVY – December 19, 2018 – (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/BYaOwe>
  
25. “Father Alleges Autistic Daughter Abused, Injured at Shadle Park High School” - A severely autistic teenage girl endured severe physical abuse this year while being held in an unpadded room at Shadle Park High School, her

father alleges. On three occasions, Katie Pope, a 15-year-old from Bellevue, suffered injuries that required treatment at Providence Sacred Heart Children's Hospital. – The Spokesman Review – December 18, 2018 – (Washington) - <https://is.gd/GfjcXO>

26. "Mother Faces Abuse Charges After Disabled Son Taken to ER" - A Summersville woman is charged in Shannon County with first-degree abuse or neglect of a child and two counts of first-degree endangering the welfare of a child involving drugs after her disabled 4-year-old son was allegedly found covered in bruises and also had what appeared to be bite marks and cigarette lighter burns. He and her other child reportedly tested positive for amphetamines, methamphetamines and marijuana. – West Plains Daily Quill – December 20, 2018 – (West Virginia) - <https://is.gd/ViSRiz>

27. "Jefferson Elementary Principal Quit Amid Allegations of Improperly Restraining Student" - Jefferson Elementary School's principal quit after Stevens Point Schools told him they would fire him for misconduct and numerous policy violations after less than four months on the job. – Stevens Point Journal – December 20, 2018 – (Wisconsin) - <https://is.gd/ubF9Z2>

## **GUARDIANSHIP**

28. "Disability Group Wants Oregon's Guardianship Law Changed" - Under guardianship, they can no longer make decisions about their care or their finances. [Disability Rights Oregon](#) has worked with the legislature to add some safeguards to Oregon's guardianship law, but DRO still feels some further refinements are needed, and will ask for them when the legislature convenes next month. – Jefferson Public Radio – December 17, 2018 – (Oregon) - <https://is.gd/rg1US1>

29. “Disability Law Center, ACLU Reach Settlement to Strengthen Legal Representation for Guardianship Hearings in Utah” - Last month, the Disability Law Center, the American Civil Liberties Union of Utah, the American Civil Liberties Union Disability Rights Program, and Latham & Watkins, LLP reached a positive settlement with the state of Utah to expand and strengthen legal protections for adults with disabilities involved in guardianship hearings in Utah with their parents. – The Independent – December 19, 2018 – (Utah) - <https://is.gd/In0WMD>

## **LAWS & LEGISLATION**

30. “Lawmakers Delay Bill That Would Create Registry for People Who Abuse Handicapped Patients” - Senate Bill 26-06 would create a list of known abusers among 'personal care attendants,' and much like the sex offender registry, employers would be able to check that list before hiring a new caregiver. State Representatives could have passed the bill before the new session starts in January, but they are concerned that abusers won't get fair treatment in the judicial system. Nicky's Law advocates told 22News that individuals added to the list have already gone through an extensive investigation process. – WWLP News 22 – December 20, 2018 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/kMluxj>

31. “Legislation Could Make Addiction Treatment More Accessible in Adult Foster Care” - This week, state lawmakers approved legislation that would let adult foster care homes also be licensed as substance abuse treatment facilities. – 9 and 10 News – December 13, 2018 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/uInBHh>

32. “Proposed Legislation Aims to Reduce Trauma Experienced by Oklahoma School Children” - In Senate Bill 72 schools would be prohibited from using mechanical restraints to restrict a child’s movement. It would also not allow schools to use medication to control behavior, unless that medication is authorized by a physician. - OKC FOX – December 19, 2018 – (Oklahoma) - <https://is.gd/aJ5ebi>

## **STUDIES & STATISTICS**

33. ‘Ungoverned’ Use of Restraint and Seclusion in Scottish Schools Criticised” - The commissioner’s report, seen exclusively by the Guardian, reveals thousands of largely unmonitored incidents, glaring inconsistencies in policy between local authorities and significant concerns that the techniques are being used disproportionately on children with disabilities and additional support needs. – The Guardian – December 13, 2018 – (Scotland) - <https://is.gd/cOkziC>

34. “Disadvantaged, Disabled and Homeless” - In the last post I pledged to explore, and hopefully to explain, the social epidemic of broken kids. For all our rising incomes and for all our advances in health care, the number of children suffering from physical, emotional, and sexual abuse as well as the number diagnosed with autism, ADHD, anxiety, depression, and other cognitive and emotional disorders appears to be on the rise. The problem cannot be attributed to one single cause. It is multi-factorial and complex. – Bacon’s Rebellion – December 14, 2018 – (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/3OK171>

## **IMPROVED SUPPORTS**

35. “Deaf Wings, a voice for victims” - Deaf victims of violence are about to get the attention they need. Deaf Wings is an initiative of the Jacksonville Area

Center for Independent Living (JACIL) designed to help women deal with the violence they have experienced. Illinois Times – December 13, 2018 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/mezURj>

36. Report: Special-Needs Scholarships Need More Oversight, but Parents Satisfied” - A detailed legislative report says a program designed for special-needs students to attend private schools needs more accountability from state regulators. – Mississippi Today – December 18, 2018 – (Mississippi) - <https://is.gd/oLvVZU>

37. “Regional Library for Blind and Physically Handicapped Plans Outreach Services” - The Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped will host outreach services throughout the territory, according to DPNR Commissioner Dawn L. Henry Esq. – The St. John Source – December 19, 2018 – (Virgin Islands) - <https://is.gd/L5HQIM>

## **INTERNATIONAL**

38. “Sydney Aged Care Worker Admits Assaulting Elderly Man” - A nursing home worker captured on camera hitting an 82-year-old man with a shoe has plead guilty to assault. – news.com.au – December 18 ,2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/fP6ERj>

39. “Concern Over Potentially Avoidable Choking Deaths in Victoria's Disability Care” - Victoria's Disability Services Commissioner says lapses by disability service providers are distressing. In 48 cases reviewed by Victoria's coroner, choking was the preliminary cause of death for three people in supported accommodation. A further seven deaths were attributed to aspiration pneumonia – ABC News – December 20, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/sReCX6>

40. "Nurse Used Excessive Force on Patient with Learning Disability" - The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) has found that Nurse Maxwell Nyamukapa's fitness to practice is impaired after he used excessive force against Ben, a vulnerable patient with a learning disability. – Ekklesia – December 15, 2018 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/5syaTT>
41. "\$50M Lawsuit Alleges Intellectually Disabled Residents Were Sexually Abused, Starved at Manitoba Institution" - The claims include allegations that staff at the Manitoba Developmental Centre in Portage la Prairie, Man., beat residents, as well as allegations of resident-on-resident rape, food deprivation and the use of nudity as punishment. – CBC – December 19, 2018 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/ZFbEk3>
42. "Egypt Issues 'White Cards' to Guarantee Rights of Disabled" - The White Card will, according to Mohsen, grant people with special needs a number of benefits, including reduction of or exemption from study expenses, reduction of transportation fare, and free treatment in governmental hospitals. – Egypt Today – December 16, 2018 – (Egypt) - <https://is.gd/ZnnWOC>
43. "The Emperor's New Cure - Ghana's New Mental Health Law is Invisible" - Out of compassion, he formulated a plan to use spoken word as a "talking cure" for the benefit of the mentally ill, to support the new mental health law, to dispel myths about mental illness, and to reduce stigmatization. – Modern Ghana – December 17, 2018 – (Ghana) - <https://is.gd/xZwLPD>
44. "Probe Blows Lid off Women Shelter Homes: 'Congested Jails, Mentally Ill Rolling on Floor'" - With the probe revealing "gross violations" in 25 of the 26 homes that were inspected on a random basis in Karnataka, UP, West

Bengal and Odisha — many were functioning as working women’s hostels — the NCW will soon extend the enquiry to all 500 such homes across the country. – The Indian Express- December 17, 2018 – (India) - <https://is.gd/UVFdn6>

45. “Disabled Sexual Assault Victims Have a Right to be Believed Too”- Our disability should not mean that issues around consent become blurred – The Irish Times – December 18, 2018 – (Ireland) - <https://is.gd/N1N1z1>

46. “Intellectually Disabled Girl Allegedly Abused and Severely Neglected Over Years” - HSE sued over alleged failures to intervene to protect orphan living with couple without legal rights over her – The Irish Times – December 18, 2018 – (Ireland) - <https://is.gd/CxceON>

47. “Group Demands Passage of Disability Laws” - Stakeholders made the call at an event on ‘Improving access to sexual assault response and support services for persons with disabilities (PWDs)’ organised by Partnership for Justice, in collaboration with Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (ROLAC), Policy Dialogue Programme. – The Guardian – December 16, 2018 – (Nigeria) - <https://is.gd/wYQtMI>

48. “Man Held for 'Molesting' Special Woman” - A man was held for allegedly molesting a deaf, dumb, and mentally-retarded girl at Chak 731 G/B here the other day. Toba Tek Singh District Police Officer (DPO) Sadiq Ali Dogar also took notice of the incident. – The Nation – December 14, 2018 – (Pakistan) - <https://is.gd/1SEHcj>

49. “Mentally Retarded Woman Buried Alive” - He while quoting the accused revealed that they have killed their sister on the direction of a local spiritual

healer aimed at getting their family rid of evil forces. – The Nation – December 16, 2018 – (Pakistan) - <https://is.gd/LuA8ou>

50. “I Want My Father Sentenced to Death in Front of Me, Autistic Boy Says in Sexual Abuse Case” - A man in Istanbul faces more than 80 years in jail in a sexual abuse case in which one of his autistic sons told the court that he would “like to see him sentenced to death in front of him because of his perversion.” - Daily News- December 18, 2018 –(Turkey) - <https://is.gd/TnV2jT>

51. “The Father of an Autistic Girl Locked in a 12ft ‘Cell’ at an Assessment and Treatment Unit (ATU) is Taking Legal Action Against the NHS for the Treatment of his Daughter” - He has now decided to launch legal action against NHS England, Walsall Council, St Andrews Healthcare and Walsall CCG, citing a breach of Beth’s human rights, right to freedom of torture, right to education and right to privacy. – Metro – December 14, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/5Dfhuv>

52. “Thug Broke Autistic Man's Jaw in Unprovoked Attack” - The 28-year-old and his carer were in a car in East Stockwell Street, Colchester, when a man passing by asked if he was mocking him. The victim’s carer said he was not laughing, but the assailant punched the vulnerable man in the face and ran off, away from the town centre. – Gazette Standard – December 14, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/T2A3sm>

53. “Police Investigate After Nottingham Forest Fan is Seen Abusing and Bullying a Vulnerable Young Rival Supporter in Sickening 'Hate Crime' Video Footage” - Police are investigating after a man claiming to be Nottingham Forest supporter humiliated a young follower of a rival club and posted the

video online. – Daily Mail – December 17, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/OUaEUA>

54. “Murder Investigation Launched as Man Dies Following Burglary 'Assault'” - The 69-year-old wheelchair-bound man suffered injuries to his face and body following a burglary at a flat in Grove Road around 11.30pm on December 10. – Birmingham Live – December 17, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/6FQCvW>

55. “18 Years for Raping Mentally-Ill Sister” - A 22-year-old married man has been sentenced to an effective 12 years in jail after he was convicted of raping his mentally challenged juvenile sister. – Nehanda Radio – December 20, 2018 – (Zimbabwe) - <https://is.gd/NltlyJ>

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

56. “Queen Creek Boy with Cerebral Palsy, Asperger’s Hits Goal, Runs 1,000 Miles” - Queen Creek boy living with cerebral palsy and Asperger syndrome isn’t letting anything slow him down. In fact, Caleb Schroeder set a goal to run 1,000 miles by his 12th birthday and Saturday he made it happen. – 12 News- December 15, 2018 – (Arizona) - <https://is.gd/OD7z7b>

57. “Newnan Team of Autistic Athletes Will Experience the Love of the Game in Alternative Baseball League” - This spring, Newnan will get its own team in the Alternative Baseball Organization with the help of former Atlanta Brave and Coweta County resident Johnny Estrada, who is set to coach the Newnan squad. – Newnan Times Herald – December 18, 2018 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/9eHG8w>

58. "At A Special Show, 3 Deaf Musicians Want You to Hear Them Roar" -  
Rapper Sean Forbes and percussionist Evelyn Glennie tell NPR's Scott Simon  
about their performance with the Detroit Philharmonic called "The Deaf  
and Loud Symphonic Experience." – NPR – December 15, 2018 – (Michigan)  
- <https://is.gd/hnECbG>