

Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Newsfeed September 22, 2018 – September 28, 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.

PLEASE NOTE: Visit our website at www.disabilityandabuse.org While on the homepage, we invite you to “like” us at the bottom of the page, making it easier to keep up with our activities! Prior weekly newsfeeds are archived at: <http://disabilityandabuse.org/newsfeed/contents.htm>

Type:

Human Trafficking: 50

Sexual Assault: 6, 8, 9, 11, 18, 22, 33, 41, 50, 53

Physical Abuse: 1, 2, 4, 12, 13, 16, 17, 23, 36, 37, 38, 55

Emotional Abuse: 16

Financial Abuse: 15

Guardianship: 29

Kept Enclosed: 1

Murder: 91, 20, 42, 44

Neglected: 1, 10, 21, 49

Related to special education: 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 12

Seclusion and Restraint: 45

Social Media Abuse: 8, 16

Guardianship: 29

Survey: 43 (Long term care providers surveyed;54: increase in crimes against people with disabilities).

WHO DUN IT (listed by article number):

Family: 1, 19, 20, 21, 23, 44

Carer: 10, 15, 17, 22, 37, 38, 42

Stranger: 11, 13

Co-student: 16

Law enforcement professional: 9, 36

Priest: 50

Gender of Perpetrator:

Men: 1, 4, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 18, 22, 36, 50, 55

Women: 1, 2, 10, 15, 19, 20, 42, 44

Good News: 9: question of consent in rape trial examined; 11: Sentence of 25 years for rape of female with I/DD; 57: Art displayed produced by artists with autism.

Bad News: 12: School staff frequently abused student – school now closed; 49: Kids with disabilities abandoned by parents in Kenya; 54: Increase in abuse of people with disabilities

ABUSE & NEGLECT

1. "Boy Found Chained in Home is "Severely Mentally Handicapped", Uncle Says" - Authorities say an anonymous tip lead them to a home on County Road 46 in Prattville where they found a 13-year-old boy naked, with chains padlocked around his ankles. The boys' mother, step-father, and grandmother are now charged with torture and willful abuse of child under 18. – Alabama News Network – September 25, 2018 – (Alabama) - <https://is.gd/VH2Uw6>
2. "Parents of special needs student call for justice in case of alleged teacher abuse" - Outside of court after a pretrial conference for the alleged abuse of a special needs student at the hands of a teacher, the parents of the student, Nicholas and Katherine Armon, say they want justice for their son and more training for teachers. – KTUU – September 25, 2018 – (Alaska) - <https://is.gd/TLF84b>
3. "Bridgeport schools under scrutiny for special ed translation services" - The Center for Children's Advocacy, along with Disabilities Rights Advocates, a national organization — working on behalf of Make the Road Connecticut — maintains that the district routinely fails to provide qualified, impartial interpreters and translated documents to children with disabilities and their parents who are not English speakers. – CT Post – September 22, 2018 – (Connecticut) - <https://is.gd/CSIZ4k>
4. "Pasco County teacher's aide accused of abusing student with special needs on bus" - A Wesley Chapel High School teacher's aide is accused of abusing a student with special needs on a school bus. Derek Simpson, 35, allegedly physically abused the victim, a non-verbal special needs student with autism. – ABC Action News – September 25, 2018 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/VoMLfH>
5. "Mentally ill man stuck in legal limbo" - If Lawrence Gudmestad, who suffers from schizoaffective disorder and is incompetent to stand trial, leaves Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, he will go to jail. – Herald Tribune – September 27, 2018 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/paTxzC>

6. "Man charged with sexually assaulting mentally handicapped woman" - A 63-year-old Haines City man has been charged with sexually assaulting a mentally handicapped adult on three separate occasions, Haines City Police reported. – The Ledger – September 28, 2018 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/7HuOGy>
7. "Georgia's Separate and Unequal Special-Education System" - A statewide network of schools for disabled students has trapped black children in neglect and isolation. - The New Yorker- October 1, 2018 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/COTjR2>
8. "Police Investigating Illinois School for The Deaf After Sex Video of Students Surfaces on Adult Website" - Police have launched an investigation after a video allegedly showing two students performing a sex act at the Illinois School for the Deaf was posted on an adult website. – Newsweek – September 26, 2018 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/bG0Qtp>
9. "Ex-Michigan City cop's rape retrial focuses on whether mentally handicapped can consent to sex" - But the only real issue for a jury, experts say and according to Indiana law, is whether the young woman was able to consent, to fully understand sex and its possible repercussions. – South Bend Tribune – September 23, 2018 – (Indiana) - <https://is.gd/tVMZUp>
10. "2 from Calmar arrested for dependent adult abuse, animal neglect" - Mincks was charged in the case of the dependent adult because she was his designated caretaker, while Guess was charged in the case of the dogs because she was their owner, officials said. – The Courier – September 22, 2018 – (Iowa) - <https://is.gd/GriETK>
11. "Franklinton man pleads guilty to raping mentally handicapped man at Halloween party" - A 63-year-old man who pleaded guilty to raping a mentally handicapped man at a Halloween party will spend the next 25 years in prison. – WGNO ABC – September 27, 2018 – (Louisiana) - <https://is.gd/65Lm9Q>
12. "Two former Eagleton School staffers admit assaults, spared jail" - Two more former staff members of the former Eagleton School have pleaded guilty to assaulting students in separate incidents from 2015, but will serve no jail time. – The Berkshire Eagle – September 27, 2018 – (Massachusetts) - <https://is.gd/vv3c7i>

13. "No help': Beating spotlights mental health treatment struggles" - She said she called her son's mental health caseworker a few days before the assault to report he was off his meds and acting erratically again but got little help. – Wood TV – September 23, 2018 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/4Te0XR>
14. "Deportation Postponed for Deaf Nigerian Immigrant in US" - U.S. immigration officials have postponed the deportation of a deaf immigrant from Nigeria in the U.S. illegally. – US News – September 22, 2018 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/1yLzCg>
15. "Kaliman sentenced for exploitation" - The former Financial Coordinator of Mission Mountain Enterprises, Jessica Lynn Kaliman, 39, of Clayton, Washington, was committed to the state Department of Corrections for three years with all but one day jail time already served suspended. Kaliman had entered a plea of guilty at District Court in Polson on Aug. 16 to one count of exploitation of an elder or disabled person. – Valley Journal – September 26, 2018 – (Montana) - <https://is.gd/PWA9G8>
16. "Family: Blind, Handicapped Student Bullied at School and Incident Posted on Snapchat" - Donnie Morton says his 17-year-old nephew had his cell phone taken out of his book bag by bullies at South Stokes High, they then smashed it with a brick and taunted him. – WFMY News – September 26, 2018 – (North Carolina) - <https://is.gd/ASZERO>
17. "Four former St. Elizabeth caregivers accused of abusing a patient" - Four former caregivers from St. Elizabeth Healthcare Edgewood have been indicted on charges that they abused a patient, Kentucky Attorney General Andy Beshear announced Monday. – WCPO – September 24, 2018 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/vyCDWy>
18. "Case dropped against man accused of raping disabled woman" - The Chief Deputy District Attorney for Lincoln County, JW Hupp, said Wednesday that he moved to have the charges dismissed for now after consulting with the victim's family and at their request. – The Seattle Times – September 26, 2018- (Oregon) - <https://is.gd/21Owj0>
19. "San Antonio mother arrested after disabled son dies of malnutrition, dehydration" – A mother allowed her disabled adult son to die of malnutrition and dehydration, according

to San Antonio police. Alma Munoz, 47, was arrested Sunday and charged with causing serious bodily injury to a disabled person, jail records showed. – My San Antonio – September 25, 2018 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/tjWT1p>

20. “York County mom with 5 kids sought in Carolinas, Va. after grandmother’s death” - She is wanted on a felony charge of neglect of a vulnerable adult. Her grandmother was found dead in York County of malnourishment and neglect on Aug. 11, said Trent Faris, spokesman for the York County Sheriff’s Office. – The Herald – September 25, 2018 – (Virginia) <https://is.gd/BjrQDe>

21. “Officer describes disturbing scene incapacitated adult was left in as accused parents head to trial in Norfolk” - After the initial call, detectives took over the case and visited the victim in the hospital, where court documents describe medical staff recorded seeing severe bed sores, open wounds showing bone and tissue, open skin infected with maggots and severe undernourishment. – WTKR News 3 – September 25, 2018 – (Virginia) <https://is.gd/ZDtDUX>

22. “Kennewick caregiver charged with raping developmentally disabled teen” - The caregiver for a developmentally disabled teen was charged Friday with sexually abusing the boy multiple times over nearly two years. Concepcion I. Suarez, 56, also allegedly made the boy undress and took pictures of his nude body. – Tri-City Herald – September 21, 2018- (Washington) - <https://is.gd/XEUovQ>

23. “Milwaukee couple facing child abuse charges, accused of trying to kill disabled child” - hey say they were choked, kicked, and beaten with bats, belts, and cords. They say Acker tried to kill one of the children who has a disability by cracking his neck. – CBS 58 – September 25, 2018 – (Wisconsin) - <https://is.gd/PN4lOc>

GUARDIANSHIP

24. “Ex-judge’s wife Betsy Savitt kicked off county’s guardianship registry”- For the first time since The Palm Beach Post exposed the vast conflict of interest between Savitt and her husband, Martin Colin — who at the time sat as a guardianship judge — the former tennis instructor no longer can be appointed new cases. – Palm Beach Post – September 22, 2108 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/VXllkR>

25. “Estate planning: A guide to avoiding the terrors of the guardianship system | Opinion” - After writing [an overview of Florida’s Guardianship laws](#), I was overcome with emails asking what measures can be taken to ensure one doesn’t fall victim to an inescapable situation. – Tallahassee Democrat – September 23, 2018 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/enzqn0>
26. “My Turn: Peter F. Kilmartin: We’re working to combat elder abuse” - Rhode Island’s elder abuse and financial exploitation laws are among the strongest in the country, made stronger in the past several years with the passage of important laws” – Providence Journal – September 22, 2018 – (Rhode Island) - <https://is.gd/r99tQe>
27. “Concern at Rise in Guardianship Orders” - The majority of guardianships are for people with a learning disability (45%) and dementia or Alzheimer's disease (41%). – BBC News – September 27, 2018 – (Scotland) - <https://is.gd/urJxFu>
28. “Guardianship Orders on The Rise in Scotland” - New figures published today by the Mental Welfare Commission show a continued rise in the use of guardianship orders in Scotland, with the majority being made for people with learning disabilities and those with dementia. – Scottish Legal News – September 27, 2018 – (Scotland) - <https://is.gd/4IXCho>
29. “Texas Supreme Court to Weigh Ethics of Lawyer's Role in Elderly Woman's Guardianship Case” - The Texas Supreme Court will soon decide whether a lawyer should be disqualified from a contested guardianship case involving an 88-year-old woman because he helped his legal assistant get a \$350,000 loan from the woman, wrote her will, and later helped his employee be appointed as her guardian. – Texas Lawyer – September 26, 2018 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/SKNhx5>

STUDIES & STATISTICS

30. “Rutgers Receives \$1.4 M Grant for Alzheimer's, Elder Abuse Research” - The grant will help researchers understand issues of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. Previous work conducted at Rush University tested the feasibility of using simulated video equipment to reduce abuse in high-risk populations. – The Daily Targum – September 24, 2018 – (New Jersey) - <https://is.gd/FCoRGD>

IMPROVED SUPPORTS

31. “State to Review Children Mental Health System” - The state previously faced lawsuits in 1997 and 2000 over its children's mental health services. The lawsuits resulted in years of court oversight to ensure children weren't waiting longer than six months for needed mental health services, as federal law requires. – The News Tribune – September 22, 2018 – (Maine) - <https://is.gd/rZArbO>

32. “The Town That Gave the World Spam Is Proud to Be ‘Autism-Friendly’” - He also landed the job because Austin is an autism-friendly town. Ten years ago, it became one of the first in the country to launch a community-wide effort both to reduce the disorder’s stigma and make local businesses aware of the special needs of autistic customers. – The Washington Post – September 23, 2018 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/uLkd1m>

33. “Christian Care Home Allowed Rape of Elderly Resident, Lawsuit Claims” - A Ferguson-based nursing home allowed an 84-year-old resident to be raped, the family of the alleged victim claim in a lawsuit filed in St. Louis County Circuit Court. – The St. Louis American – September 27, 2018 – (Missouri) - <https://is.gd/gDYTSS>

34. “Aiken High School Helps Engage Special Needs Students with Early-Morning Yoga” - Aiken High School’s special needs students begin their day with a half-hour yoga class, preparing for classes with a uniquely accessible form of exercise that encourages practitioners to calm their minds and develop a greater sense of control over their bodies. – WCPO – September 24, 2018 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/hUHV2z>

35. “‘We're Not Alone': Utah's Deaf-Blind Community Meets to Socialize, Network, Promote Awareness” - Rough was one of close to 200 people to gather at DeafBlind Awareness Day on Friday, hosted by Deafblind Advocacy of Utah at the Department of Workforce Services offices in Salt Lake City. – KSL News- September 22, 2018 – (Utah) - <https://is.gd/7ACTHR>

36. “Restaurant Security Guards Are Fired After Being Caught on Camera Violently Kicking and Punching A Man in A Wheelchair” - Two of the guards are seen on camera punching

and kicking Lopez. – Daily Mail - September 24, 2018 – (Wisconsin) - <https://is.gd/ISPAhD>

INTERNATIONAL

37. “I Saw Some of The Worst Abuse Imaginable While Working in Aged Care” On one of those early shifts I saw the worst example of abuse I had ever encountered; a ‘care assistant’ (untrained) took a dislike to a resident and was hosing him with cold water. The poor man was naked and crying on the tiled floor. - Startsat60- September 22, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/XtIXTH>
38. “Disability Carer Recorded Saying 'I Just Wanna F***Ing Beat These Kids Without Risk” - The recording, obtained by the ABC, documents two carers launching an expletive-laden tirade at the boy, who is profoundly disabled and can barely speak for himself. – ABC News- September 27, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/FNxd2X>
39. “Hiding ‘Grannycams’ In Aged Care Facilities Is Legally And Ethically Murky” - Institutions are under pressure to deploy [CCTV](#) to deter abuse and provide evidence for discipline or prosecution. But this is controversial because it erodes the privacy of people in care, staff and visitors. – The Conversation – September 25, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/eHRLj7>
40. “This Woman's Treatment May Be Shocking, But It's Not Assault” - When Ed Robins noticed bruising and skin tears on his 92-year-old mother, he decided to install a small video camera in her room at Perth's Morrison Lodge nursing home. – ABC News – September 24, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/yvJVTO>
41. “Family’s Fury as Man Accused of Sexually Assaulting Their Grandmother Continues to Live at Her Aged Care Home” - The furious family of an elderly woman who was allegedly sexually assaulted in her nursing home are demanding her accused attacker be removed from the facility. – Daily Mail – September 27, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/AUjtkd>
42. “Victims' Families Speak at Wettlaufer Inquiry” - The families of eight people killed by an Ontario nurse, as well as one of her surviving victims, lamented a fundamental lack of

respect for human life in the province's long-term care system Monday as they addressed a public inquiry probing the circumstances around the woman's crimes. – Niagara Falls Review – September 24, 2018 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/6DUxBk>

43. “Long-Term Care Home Investigations Found 42 Cases of Abuse In 2017” - 14 cases involved physical abuse, 10 were emotional, 9 constituted neglect- CBC News- September 24, 2018 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/zaL2Bz>
44. “Delhi: Mother and Her Handicapped Daughter Found Dead in Paschim Vihar” - In a case of double murder, a 65-year-old woman and her 42-year-old handicapped daughter were found dead inside their house in Paschim Vihar on Saturday. The police are probing all angles while suspected the role of an unknown acquaintance. – DNA India – September 23, 2018 – (India) - <https://is.gd/nbp0KE>
45. “Seclusion and Restraint in Schools: Children with Disabilities at Risk” - Children with disabilities as young as five years of age are at risk of psychological harm caused by the use of unregulated seclusion and restraint practices in schools, according to campaigners. – Irish Times – September 26, 2018 – (Ireland) - <https://is.gd/GLBVGz>
46. “Disabled Children ‘Restrained’ In School Shows New Report” - The Inclusion Ireland report, published yesterday, revealed 14 shocking cases including one involving a child being left alone for long periods of time, despite having a history of seizures. – Extra.ie – September 27, 2018 – (Ireland) - <https://is.gd/iKOivv>
47. “Rabbi Works to Make Jewish Life More Accessible for Deaf Community” - Rabbi Yehoshua, 27, and his wife, Cheftziba, both deaf from birth, recently hosted Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services in their Rishon Letzion apartment for members of the deaf community. “Twenty came and slept in our home. We had services and meals together. It was really wonderful,” Soudakoff tells the JNS in a phone call from Israel with the assistance of an interpreter. – Sun Sentinel September 30, 2108 – (Israel) - <https://is.gd/WGRhaE>
48. “Judiciary, Do More for Mentally Challenged Sexual Abuse Victims” - Dolls symbolising the agony of sexual assault victims. Covaw is seeking a judicial interpretation on

whether a person with mental disabilities has the capacity to consent. – Daily Nation – September 26, 2018 – (Kenya) - <https://is.gd/VlCofC>

49. “Stigma, Poverty Leave 'Cursed' Disabled Children Neglected In Kenya's Orphanages” - Thousands of disabled children in Kenya - abandoned by their parents due to poverty and stigma - are being neglected and uncared for in orphanages across the east African country, according to a study by Disability Rights International (DRI).- Reuters – September 28, 2018 – (Kenya) - <https://is.gd/er6Vxz>

50. “Priest Suspected of Sexual Abuse Will Be Kept in Custody” - A Roman Catholic priest suspected of sexual abuse of a mentally disabled man and involvement in a human trafficking ring will continue to be kept in custody while investigations continue, a court ruled September 21. – LSM.LV Public Broadcasting of Latvia – September 21, 2018 – (Latvia) - <https://is.gd/dqs8wQ>

51. “Nursing Home Abuse Cases Pile Up, Leaving Heartbreak and Betrayal” - Data obtained by CBC News shows on average 13 cases of abuse for every 1,000 beds over 3-year period – CBC News – September 25, 2018 – (Nova Scotia) - <https://is.gd/KBoBqv>

52. “Deaf People Ask Government to Exempt Them from Social Media Tax” - The deaf people in Uganda have ended the International Deaf Awareness Week with a call on government to exempt them from social media tax, saying it complicates communication and access to essential services such as education, health, justice, worship and news and information. – Chimp Reports – September 24, 2018 – (Uganda) - <https://is.gd/ca6h2K>

53. “Barry Woman Accused of Rape Deemed Intellectually Disabled”. - A woman from Barry, accused alongside her husband of raping young girls in the 1980s and 90s, has been assessed as "intellectually disabled". – BBC News – September 24, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/iVV1pW>

54. “Shocking Rise in Hate Crimes Against Disabled” - In the 2016/17 financial year, there were 319 attacks, but this increased to 536 the following year – a huge rise of 217, or 68

per cent. – Telegraph and Argus – September 24, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/l8H3cE>

55. “Disabled Man Used Electric Wheelchair As Battering Ram To Knock Down Pensioners, Court Hears” - A disabled man used his electric wheelchair as a “battering ram” to deliberately knock down two elderly women as they waited for a bus, [a court heard.](#) – Evening Standard – September 26, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/uSrRKR>

MISCELLANEOUS

56. “On the Long Struggle for Rights for People with Disabilities” - Equally unappreciated is Pennsylvania’s role in the disability civil rights movement. It is a remarkable saga that speaks to bedrock American values. – Lancaster Online – September 25, 2018 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/CZvvzJ>

57. “Meet the Autistic Schoolgirl Behind This Genius Piece of Art” Jessi Crowther, who has autism, understands other children can find it hard to talk about their anxieties - so she draws them instead – Plymouth Live – September 24, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/MucWij>