

Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of December 8 to December 14, 2018

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Articles are listed in alphabetical order by state within each category, so you can easily scan through the articles for those within your state or other states in which you have an interest. *International* articles are near the end. The categories are: *Abuse and Neglect, Guardianship, Laws & Legislation, Studies & Statistics, Improved Supports, International,* and sometimes, *Miscellaneous.*

Check the categories below for a guide to types of abuse. The categories are indicated by type, and the number of the article.

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 of Abuse:

Abuse and Neglect:

Sexual Assault: 15, 38, 48

Physical Abuse: 4, 6, 9, 50

Emotional/Verbal Abuse: 8, 40, 41

Financial abuse: 13, 18

Murder: 1, 3, 10, 52

Neglected: 7, 14, 53

Kept Enclosed: 45

Social Media Abuse: 8

Related to special education: 1, 8, 14

Guardianship: 18

Studies: 29, lack of safety in foster care

WINNER of most egregious award: 9: Police officer beat woman with mental illness in hospital triage unit, briefly suspended

WINNER of “good job” award: 22: Bill introduced in Congress to ensure special education is funded under IDEA.

WHO DUN IT (listed by article number):

Family: 3, 7, 40, 52

Carer: 6, 13

Hospital: 40, 45

Special education employee: 1

Bus driver: 14, 15

Co-student: 8 (2 boys)

Law Enforcement: 4, 9, 50

Men: 9, 15, 18, 40, 48, 50, 52

Women: 3, 5, 6, 7, 13

Boy: 8

Good News: 4: Special education teacher who physically abused students found guilty, give seven-year sentence; 12: Call for federal investigation of NYS treatment center; 19: WA settlement to ensure treatment for jail

inmates with mental illnesses; 51: street kiosks made accessible for Deaf people

Bad News: 4: Court rules against deaf boy who didn't comply with police orders who then used stun gun on him; 11: neighbors hassle prospective buyers of a property planned to be a group home: 16: thousands of ASD adults have no services at all in TX county; 38: victims of sexual assault denied justice.

ABUSE & NEGLECT

1. "School Violated Several Regulations in Autistic Teen's Death" - Through the investigation, the DOE found that the school violated several state regulations when they put the child in a face-down "prone restraint" for more than an hour. – Patheos – December 8, 2018 – (California) - <https://is.gd/p2nEnm>
2. "Is California Failing Its Most Vulnerable Adults?" - A joint investigation by The Investigative Fund at The Nation Institute and FiveThirtyEight has found that from 2013 to 2017, there were at least 2,400 reported allegations of abuse and neglect in the more than 4,500 day programs like Jackie's in California. – Five Thirty Eight – December 11, 2018 – (California) - <https://is.gd/Lm7oQJ>
3. "Colorado Springs Mother Sentenced in 6-Week-Old Son's Death" - A 24-year-old Colorado Springs woman has been sentenced to 30 years in prison in the [starvation death of her 6-week-old baby boy last year](#). Defense attorneys said Mirabal has an intellectual disability and suffered longstanding abuse by her husband and co-defendant, John Ostrander.- The Denver Channel – December 12, 2018 – (Colorado) - <https://is.gd/Dc2YZS>

4. “Court Rules in Favor of Officer Who Used Stun Gun On Deaf Boy” - Police said they ordered the boy to drop a large rock and warned him they would use a stun gun if he didn't. Teachers at the school translated the officers' commands and warnings in sign language to the boy, who police say ignored officers' orders. – AZFamily – December 7, 2018 – (Connecticut) - <https://is.gd/wE2RKx>

5. “Former Special Education Teacher Sentenced 7 Years for Abusing Student with Autism” - Marilyn Stillions will spend up to seven years in prison after a judge in Okaloosa County sentenced her Thursday. – Wear TV – December 7, 2018 – (Florida) - <https://is.gd/ZbryAM>

6. “Deputies Catch Woman Wanted for Abusing Disabled, Elderly” - Carter was arrested on North L Street Thursday and she's charged with battery domestic violence, aggravated assault domestic violence, abuse of a disabled adult domestic violence, burglary and battery on someone 65 years or older. She is in jail with no bond. – News WKRK- December 7, 2018 - (Florida) - <https://is.gd/KOAr2i>

7. “Oklahoma Woman Arrested After Boy with Special Needs Found Alone at Kansas Rest Stop” - Authorities have arrested the grandmother of a 17-year-old Oklahoma boy with special needs who was found alone near a southeast Kansas rest stop. Rogers County authorities say 68-year-old Janie Gill was arrested in that county and booked into jail Monday on one count of child neglect. – News 4 – December 11, 2018 – (Kansas) - <https://is.gd/xWNTUe>

8. “Exclusive: Damascus HS Students Accused of Posting Humiliating Photo of Boy with Autism” - Kelly Salvador cannot comprehend why a Damascus

High School student took a humiliating photo of her special needs son, and then shared that image on Snapchat with help from a second classmate. – News 4 – December 6, 2018 – (Maryland) - <https://is.gd/mYMKNe>

9. “Detroit Cop Charged with Beating Naked Woman in Hospital is Back on Job” - A Detroit police corporal was allowed to return to his job just one week after he was charged with brutally assaulting a naked, unarmed and mentally ill woman inside an emergency room triage unit. Dewayne Jones, 47, was suspended in August after cell phone video emerged showing the 18-year veteran of the force punching the woman about a dozen times while another officer and hospital security tried to restrain her at Detroit Receiving Hospital. – Motor City Muckraker – December 11, 2018 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/nQSYIs>

10. Regret, Tears as Ex-Officer is Found Not Guilty in Zachary BearHeels' Death” - A jury of six men and six women voted unanimously to acquit Payne, 39, of charges of second-degree assault and weapon use. Payne was [accused of acting unreasonably](#) in pulling the trigger on a Taser 12 times. – Omaha World – Herald – December 11, 2018 – (Nebraska) - <https://is.gd/Ox96T8>

11. “Neighbors Debased Farm for Autistic Adults with Graffiti and Horse Manure: Lawsuit” - When a charitable organization tried to buy a farm on Middletown’s affluent Navesink River Road to use as a home for adults with autism, neighbors went to great lengths to block the sale and even tried to bribe the seller to back out of the deal, court papers allege. – app.com – December 11, 2018 – (New Jersey) - <https://is.gd/b6SBy0>

12. “Reps. Zeldin, King, Stefanik, Reed Call For Federal Investigation Of NYS Justice Center For The Protection of People With Special Needs” - Today,

Congressman Lee Zeldin (R, NY-1) was joined by Reps. Peter King (R, NY-2), Elise Stefanik (R, NY-21) and Tom Reed (R, NY-23) requesting that the Department of Justice investigate the New York State Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs' failure to protect individuals with disabilities and Medicaid recipients who have died under state care, including nine who died while in state care in Suffolk County since 2013. – LongIsland.com – December 10, 2018 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/bRsaHI>

13. “SBI Arrests Group Home Manager for Embezzlement” - A former resident manager at Cohen Group Home in Norwood has been charged with eight counts of embezzlement. Megan N. Pilkins was arrested Friday following a year-long investigation by the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation. – The Stanley News & Press – December 10, 2018 – (North Carolina) - <https://is.gd/NKpjKG>

14. “Driver Suspended After Handicapped Child Left on Bus” - Midwest City Police Chief Brandon Clabes says a girl with cerebral palsy was alone on a parked school bus for at least five hours Tuesday. The 7-year-old wheelchair bound girl was discovered when the driver and monitor returned to the vehicle. The Mid-Del school district announced the suspensions of both the driver and the monitor on Wednesday. – KRMG- December 13, 2018 – (Oklahoma) - <https://is.gd/667YQe>

15. “Lyft Driver Arrested, Accused of Sexually Assaulting a Passenger” - This week, Austin police arrested 23-year-old Fidele Ngirishyaka on charges of aggravated sexual assault. – KXAN- December 8, 2018 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/5pp9OV>

16. “Report: Thousands of Autistic Adults in Bexar County go Without Services” - Thousands of other adults in Bexar County with autism spectrum disorder or intellectual and developmental disabilities likely lack access to services, according to a report released Wednesday. – San Antonio Express – News – December 12, 2018 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/vyC2gG>

17. “Top State Court Rejects Appeal of Deaf, Mute Defendant” - Forty-three-year-old Oswaldo Elias Martinez has been repeatedly found not competent to stand trial on charges that he raped and murdered 16-year-old Brittany Binger. The Richmond Times-Dispatch reports that lack of a trial figured into the Virginia Supreme Court's Thursday ruling. – WHSV 3 – December 7, 2018 - (Virginia) - <https://is.gd/3WTXnk>

18. “Police: VT Man Stole More Than \$48K From Elderly Woman” - A Vermont man has been charged with stealing more than \$48,000 from an elderly woman over a four-year period after gaining power of attorney of her affairs, police say. Eric Brigham, 52, of Williamstown, was charged with one count of financial exploitation, according to Newport police. – WHDH- December 11, 2018 – (Vermont) - <https://is.gd/iAqNee>

19. “After Paying \$83 Million in Fines, Washington Settles Jail Mental-Health Lawsuit” - After twice finding the state of Washington in contempt for violating her order to provide timely competency services to mentally ill people held in jails, a federal judge in Seattle has approved a settlement that is designed to ensure people get help before entering the criminal-justice system. – The Seattle Times – December 12, 2018 – (Washington) - <https://is.gd/QjP4lw>

GUARDIANSHIP

20. “UNICEF Calls for Guardianship for Children of Migrants in Kyrgyzstan” – Children of labour migrants who are left behind with relatives, acquaintances or put into institutions are extremely vulnerable to abuse and violence. Acknowledging the vulnerable situation of children of migrants, UNICEF is working with the relevant national authorities to formalize a system of guardianship of children left behind by migrants. – AKI Press – December 8, 2018- (Kyrgyzstan) - <https://is.gd/fQKRDO>
21. “Statutory Durable Powers a Tool to Avoid Guardianship” - A little more than a year ago the Texas Legislature made substantial changes to the law establishing a Statutory Durable Power of Attorney (SDPOA). Given those changes, made effective September 1, 2017, persons who created a SDPOA prior to should review those instruments with their attorneys. – Glen Rose Reporter – December 10, 2018 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/huITJ3>

LAWS & LEGISLATION

22. “Van Hollen Introduces Bill to Fund Title I, Special Education”- U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) wants boost funding to American's neediest schools and special education programs through the Keep Our Promise to America's Children and Teachers (PACT) Act. The legislation would create a 10-year mandatory "glide path" to fully fund both [Title I](#) and the [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\)](#) over a 10-year period in the federal budget. – The Journal – December 10, 2018 – (Maryland) - <https://is.gd/WjA1UP>
23. “Elder Abuse Reform Returning to Minnesota Legislature as Advocacy Groups Search for Consensus” - The 2019 Minnesota Legislature will again take up reforms aimed at keeping vulnerable and elderly Minnesotans safe

and holding accountable those who are charged with their care. Efforts to do so earlier this year failed. – Grand Forks Herald – December 7, 2018 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/vq8grt>

24. “Rosebud Sioux Tribe: Resolution No. 2017-352” - WHEREAS, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe is authorized to provide for the protection of all minors, mentally incompetent and any others who need protection or assistance for reason of health, age, or other extenuating circumstances, pursuant to Rosebud Sioux – Todd County Tribune – December 11, 2018 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/g6BSQo>

STUDIES & STATISTICS

25. “Siblings of Children with Autism or ADHD are at Elevated Risk for Both Disorders” - Later-born siblings of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) are at elevated risk for both disorders, a new study led by Meghan Miller, assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and at the UC Davis MIND Institute, has concluded. The findings appear today in JAMA Pediatrics. – EurekAlert – December 10, 2018 – (California) - <https://is.gd/zvdALp>

26. “International Disability Rights And The Dilemma Of Domestic Courts” - Since 1992, 3 December has been the [International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#). According to the [World Report on Disability](#), approximately one in five people in the world are disabled and are at heightened risk of exclusion, disadvantage, and poverty. – Oxford University Press – December 10, 2018 – (England) - <https://is.gd/Ct5nod>

27. “Many With Special Needs Struggle To Access Services After High School” - [Recent data collected by the Office of Public Instruction](#) shows 18,000

students in Montana are receiving special education services [out of roughly 146,000 total students](#). But once special needs students complete their individualized programs at 18, support is much harder to find. – Montana Standard – December 9, 2018 – (Montana) - <https://is.gd/AmwqNb>

28. NC Ranked No. 9 For Best Elderly-Abuse Policies -WalletHub recently released a study ranking each state for the best elderly abuse protections, and North Carolina was ranked among the top 10 states. – The Laurinburg Exchange – December 14, 2018 – (North Carolina) - <https://is.gd/VCh016>

29. “Unsafe and Uneducated: New Report Reveals Dangers for Youth in Pennsylvania Foster Care” - A new report released today by Children’s Rights and the Education Law Center-PA raises serious concerns about the safety of Pennsylvania’s residential placements for youth in foster care and the quality of education provided there. The report, Unsafe and Uneducated: Indifference to Dangers in Pennsylvania’s Residential Child Welfare Facilities, is available [here](#). – Children’s Rights – December 13, 2018 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/Ri9130>

IMPROVED SUPPORTS

30. “This Program for Mentally Ill Defendants Mostly Focuses on Declaring Them Fit for Trial”- Restoration to Competency is intended to assist the court in making a pivotal decision about the fate of mentally ill defendants. But does it really work in their best interest? – AZ Central – December 11, 2018 – (Arizona) - <https://is.gd/MPT4Wh> (*Wasn’t sure where this should go)

31. “Expert Requested for Oversight at CMHIP” - A judge is being asked to appoint a specialist to help ensure that the state hospital at Pueblo comes

into compliance by promptly determining whether a backlog of criminal defendants is mentally competent to stand trial. – The Pueblo Chieftain – December 7, 2018 – (Colorado) - <https://is.gd/XBKzub>

32. “Emma Bouza Educates First Responders” - Disability only becomes a tragedy when society fails to provide the things needed to lead ones daily life.”- N West Iowa – December 9, 2018 – (Iowa) - <https://is.gd/pxLhHd>

33. “MDE Holding Lottery for Special Needs Scholarship Program” - The Mississippi Department of Education is holding a lottery next week for parents of students with disabilities who would like to claim state money to remove their children from public schools to seek other educational services. – WLOX- December 9, 2018 – (Mississippi) - <https://is.gd/tMqSkV>

34. “New Agency Meeting Area’s Growing Needs” - New Beginnings Family Services is a behavioral health agency responsible for assuring the delivery of community-based mental health, intellectual disability, substance abuse and/or behavioral health services to individuals with those disabilities. – The Grand Island Independent – December 9, 2018 – (Nebraska) - <https://is.gd/h59sfZ>

35. “Aspire Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Services to Hold Addiction Recovery Listening Session” - Aspire will hold an active listening session as part of a new program. – Albany Herald – December 10, 2018 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/hBaSz9>

36. “Cabriní’s CFEC is Donating 100 Books to Local Elementary Schools” - This movement focuses on the end of the use of retarded and to respect people

with special needs. – Loquitur – December 9, 2018 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/ggyIIY>

INTERNATIONAL

37. “Parents Who Gave Cannabis Oil Treatment to Son to Treat Autism Have No Convictions Recorded” - Jamie Blake and Stephanie Mackay pleaded guilty to several drug-related charges in Supreme Court in Rockhampton on Monday. – ABC – December 10, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/YRKltg>

38. “People with a Disability Denied Human Right of Justice” - John* has been victim to multiple sexual assaults. He is non-verbal and has complex communication needs. He is one of a countless number of people with a disability who have been denied justice through the court system. – The Courier News – December 10, 2018 - (Australia) - <https://is.gd/9bjR8B>

39. “Son Kills Father, Brother-In-Law Kills Another in Gazipur” - At least two persons were murdered by their relatives in Kaliganj and Kaliakoir Upazilas of Gazipur district. – The Daily New Nation – December 17, 2018 – (Bangladesh) - <https://is.gd/wkHZKq>

40. “Abusive Father Who Repeatedly Called His Autistic Son, 6, 'Retarded' Is Stripped of His Parental Rights and Ordered Not to Contact Him in Rare Legal Move” - Deputy High Court Judge Frances Judd QC ruled it was in the boy’s best interests for the father’s parental responsibility to be removed after he wrote about him ‘in dreadful terms’. – Daily Mail – December 15, 2018 – (England) - <https://is.gd/g5N6IJ>

41. “My Brother Was 'Racially And Physically Abused' At Derby's Controversial Radbourne Unit” - The man's sister claimed: "He was racially abused,

ignored, drugged up all the time, he felt vulnerable and threatened there. He was like a zombie." She said that during her visit to the unit, she witnessed the racial abuse against her brother and was subject to it herself. – Derbyshire Live – December 10, 2018 – (England) - <https://is.gd/k3o4Sq>

42. "Deaf and Hearing-Impaired Indians Push for Official Sign Language Recognition"- "Once the language gets officially recognized, the government [will] be forced to work on creating an infrastructure for it, whatever the cost and effort." – Devex – December 10, 2018 – (India) - <https://is.gd/pldNfb>
43. "Insurers Give Short Shrift to Disabled" - Article 25 of the UN Convention on the rights of the disabled prohibits discrimination in matters of health and life insurance. – The New Indian Express – December 16, 2018 – (India) - <https://is.gd/mKHvVo>
44. "Women and Girls with Disabilities Face Twice the Domestic Violence but State Provides Few Protections in Iran" - "Our disability is not a deterrent. It makes us an easy low-risk target for violent people," she said. – Center for Human Rights – December 12, 2018 – (Iran) - <https://is.gd/3RWGCw>
45. "Muckamore Abbey Seclusion Room Was Dark Dungeon" - The mother of a severely-disabled man who is a patient at Muckamore Abbey Hospital described a seclusion room her son was placed in as "a dark dungeon". – BBC News – December 10, 2018 – (Ireland) - <https://is.gd/ARhXFK>
46. Israel Fails to Provide 500 Autistic Children with Treatment Promised by Law - Some 500 children who are on the autism spectrum, but are sufficiently high-functioning as to be integrated into regular kindergartens,

are not receiving health-promoting treatments they are entitled to by law.
– HAARETZ – December 16, 2018 – (Israel) - <https://is.gd/p7KrpD>

47. “Israeli Killing of Young Palestinian Unlawful, Video Shows” - Footage contradicts Israeli army's claim that mentally impaired Palestinian man was killed during a rock-throwing riot. – Aljazeera – December 11, 2018 – (Palestine) - <https://is.gd/dD1ZeR>

48. “Rape of Disabled Teen Uncovered After Four Years” - A 47-year-old mentally disabled man accused of raping an 18-year-old mentally disabled woman four years ago has been released on bail ahead of his next court appearance in January. – Health-E News – December 12, 2018 – (South Africa) - <https://is.gd/rutNQS>

49. “Concerns Over the Word 'Retarded'...TTARC in the Process of Changing Offensive Name” - And as such Sabga and the TTARC board have been working to change the name of the association to one that has a more sweet-smelling savour. However, it is a process that cannot be done overnight. – Trinidad & Tobago Guardian – December 9, 2018 – (Trinidad & Tobago) - <https://is.gd/tOH1oh>

50. “Officer Denies Using Excessive Force Against Mental Health Patient” - A police officer alleged to have used excessive force before a mental health patient went into cardiac arrest has claimed he felt in 'immediate danger'. – Express & Star – December 9, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/mpDp3w>

51. “BT Upgrades InLink Street Kiosks for Deaf, Speech-Impaired People” - BT and InLinkUK, the supplier of its [street kiosk units](#), have upgraded more

than 320 units around the UK with new [accessibility services](#) for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech impaired. – Computer Weekly – December 10, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/5zYT4s>

52. “Former Preston Policeman 'Nearly Got Away With' the Murder of his Elderly Mother” - After neglecting his mother Bernadette, 88, Green eventually suffocated her at the home they shared in Inkerman Street, Preston. The emaciated pensioner weighed just six stones when she died in her own feces on May 18. – Lancashire Post – December 11, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/w2gXhw>

53. “Man with Asperger’s, 31, Sent Back to Live in a Tent in the Woods by the Council Even After He Attempted Suicide” - Then, after he was let down by hostels and decided to live in a tent, he claims a council official told him he’d be “better off” sleeping rough when he begged for temporary accommodation. – i News The Essential Daily Briefing – December 12, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/FOWRoq>