

Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of March 1 to March 8, 2019

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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.

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Please send comments or questions to: nora@disability-abuse.com or baladerian@gmail.com

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Type:

Abuse and Neglect:

Sexual Assault: 1(update), 5, 6, 9, 11, 14, 21, 22, 24

Physical Abuse: 3, 8, 18, 19, 20, 27, 48

Emotional/Verbal Abuse: 8

Financial abuse: 3, 7, 13, 31

Murder: 10, 14, 26, 46, 51

Neglected: 4, 10, 17, 23

Related to special education: 12, 18, 48

WINNER of most egregious award: 1: Hacienda Nursing Hospital Board of Directors interferes with attempts to make changes at facility due to a clash with management; 4: Activist dies due to insurance company refusing to pay for needed medication citing financial costs.

WHO DUN IT (listed by article number):

Family: 7

Carer: 1, 8, 9, 13, 17, 26, 46

Stranger: 3, 19

Special education teacher: 12 School bus driver & aides: 18

Group home: 5, 10, 14, 20, 26

Nursing home: 8, 9, 15, 27

Foster home: 13

Assisted living: 22

Behavior Therapist: 24

Men: 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 14, 18, 21, 22, 27

Women: 7, 8, 11, 12, 18, 20, 24

Good News: 28: Walmart pledges to find jobs for displaced greeters.

Bad News: 6: No charges filed in case of sexual assault of victim even with DNA match to evidence from the scene. The barrier: question if she was able to consent, when all her statements are her complaint of rape; 25: Pope's speech "disgraceful display of excuses" re. priest's sexual assault of parishioners; 42: study shows increase of abuse and neglect of elders and people with disabilities by 9% over last year; 52: People with autism must declare their diagnosis in order to get drivers license. (UK)

ABUSE & NEGLECT

1. "Execs Praised, Board Accused of Meddling as Both Flee Facility Where Disabled Woman Gave Surprise Birth" - Nine members of the exec team, along with Rick Romley — a former county attorney who was hired in January to conduct a "no holds-barred" internal investigation at Hacienda — resigned last week alone. They cited "intolerable working conditions" and actions on the part of the board that have "complicated our ability to be successful," according to the Arizona Republic. -McKnights Long-Term Care News – March 5, 2019 – (Arizona) - <https://is.gd/WMbyPt>
2. "Disability Rights Group Sues San Diego Over Scooters On Sidewalks" - Electric scooters have taken cities across the country by surprise, sometimes causing conflicts with city authorities and pedestrians. In San Diego, the scooters have led to a federal lawsuit claiming the new devices cause discrimination against people with disabilities. – NPR – March 4, 2019 – (California)- <https://is.gd/CJiz8w>
3. "Man accused of attacking developmentally disabled man takes plea" - 21-year-old San Bruno man accused of beating a developmentally disabled man and taking money from him last fall is facing up to two years in state prison after he pleaded no contest to charges of felony threats and elder abuse Monday, according to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office. – The Daily Journal – March 5, 2019 – (California) - <https://is.gd/5ltLzl>

4. “An Activist’s Tragic Death” - A reader laments that her friend died after an insurance company refused to pay for the medication she needed. – The New York Times – March 3, 2019 – (Colorado) - <https://is.gd/a4C5nb>

5. “Man Arrested After Attempted Sexual Assault at Ledyard Group Home” - The suspect, 23-year-old Allen Brown of Ledyard, was found outside the group home and placed under arrest. Brown has been charged with criminal attempt to commit sexual assault and breach of peace. – WFSB – 3- March 5, 2019 – (Connecticut) - <https://is.gd/F8xG75>

6. “DNA Supports St. Pete Rape Claim from Woman Who Is Intellectually Disabled. Why No Charges?” - Mary Scroggins, left, with her 26-year-old daughter at Fred Howard Park in Tarpon Springs, questions why no charges have been filed in what they describe as a sexual assault on the daughter three years ago. The daughter, whose name is being withheld, has had been intellectually disabled since birth. – Tampa Bay Times - March 6, 2019 – (Florida)- <https://is.gd/Azo8z7>

7. “Mother Disappears After Tricking Judge to Access Special Needs Son’s \$200K Trust Fund” - Georgia police say a mother got her hands on her mentally disabled son’s trust fund by tricking the courts and a doctor. – Hawaii News Now – March 2, 2019 – (Georgia) - <https://is.gd/rWa1DT>

8. “New Charges Brought in Edmonson Center Abuse Case” - Three former employees at a Brownsville nursing home who were accused of abusing two elderly residents face a new set of criminal charges in their ongoing case. – Bowling Green Daily News – March 2, 2019 – (Kentucky) - <https://is.gd/de6xMC>

9. "Nursing Home Worker Charged with Rape, Sodomy, Sexual Abuse" - Jamie Jenkins obtained an arrest warrant Feb. 28 for Jimmy Lee Shrewsberry, 58, charging him with second-degree rape/mentally incapacitated, second-degree sodomy/mentally incapacitated and three counts of first-degree sexual abuse. – SurfKY – March 4, 2019 – (Kentucky) - <https://is.gd/sdacwc>

10. "Group Home Death Probe: Police Case Still Open in Dollar Bay Man's Death" - An investigation by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Adult Protective Services (APS) into the death of a 22-year-old resident of the Atlantic House has concluded that there was "moderate risk of neglect" at the facility. – The Daily Mining Gazette – March 7, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://tinyurl.com/y4z84f3t>

11. "Female pedophile set to die in jail for performing abusive sex act on baby girl" - Furman, of Battle Creek, Michigan, was part of a child porn ring which stands accused of plotting to kidnap, rape, torture and kill a child chosen at random. – Metro – March 6, 2019 – (Michigan)- <https://is.gd/Ns73a3>

12. "Michigan Special Education Teacher Accused Of Sexually Assaulting 11-Year-Old Student" - Judge Thomas LaCross ruled Friday that there's enough evidence indicating [Heather Winfield](#) had an improper relationship with a student for the case to go to trial. Police say the boy told authorities that Winfield sexually assaulted him more than 100 times since 2016. – Clinton Detroit – March 5, 2019 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/6wlg8x>

13. "More Maltreatment Found at Defunct St. Cloud Foster Home" - A Feb. 7 memo states that Richard Kelly Adult Foster Care collected too much rent from a vulnerable adult and provided him or her less "personal needs" money than warranted, according to the Maltreatment Investigation Memorandum.

The state concluded it was financial exploitation. The amount of money mismanaged was not determined by investigation. – SC Times – March 2, 2019 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/4P6xp8>

14. “Ex Group Home Owner Sentenced for Abuse” - Paula Marie Beulke, 63, pleaded guilty to gross misdemeanor criminal abuse and was sentenced this week in Le Sueur County District Court. The charge will be dismissed if she spends three days in jail and completes probation and community service. – The Free Press – March 6, 2019 – (Minnesota) - <https://is.gd/HNwryp>

15. “N.J. Nursing Home Fined \$600,000 After 11 Children with Disabilities Died During a Viral Outbreak” - On Monday, Wanaque Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation in Haskell, New Jersey, was fined \$600,000 after 11 children died and 36 became sick during a viral outbreak in fall 2018 after federal inspectors found widespread substandard care at the facility. Wanaque Center is home to more than 50 children with disabilities and medical conditions that require ventilators, in addition to 150 other vulnerable children and seniors. – The Mighty – March 4, 2019 – (New Jersey) - <https://is.gd/YsmKv2>

16. “The Latest: Anti-Harassment Group Calls for New Hearings” - Supporters of stronger sexual harassment policies in New York state are demanding legislative hearings following an Associated Press story about allegations that supervisors did little to stop harassment in a small state government office. – The News Tribune – March 1, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/aagd5e>

17. “Autistic, Nonverbal Man Left Alone in Van for Hours” - Tandra Butler is his sister, and she received a call around 4 p.m. that her brother was left on the van for six hours. It wasn't until the van returned to pick up people in the afternoon that someone from the program discovered Elbert was sitting in the

back of the van, according to Butler. – WGRZ – March 4, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/T7o8pw>

18. “Former School Bus Driver, Bus Aides Charged with Abusing Autistic Child” - Bus driver James LaGreca, 81, and aides Auga Roberts and Anneris Contreras were arraigned Tuesday in Suffolk County criminal court for what the District Attorney says was the depraved torment of a nine-year-old boy with special needs aboard a school bus to and from his school. – CBS 2 – March 5, 2019 – (New York)- <https://is.gd/f4xkcy>

19. “Man Charged with Assault After Allegedly Punching 8-Year-Old Boy with Autism On Subway” - A young boy with special needs is recovering after police say he was punched at random while riding the subway with his mother. – WLNY- CBS 2 – March 5, 2019 – (New York) - <https://is.gd/F2nnlm>

20. “Group Home Workers Accused of Striking Handicapped Man with Metal Broom Handle” - The two suspects, Amaya Hope Martin, 20, of Gastonia and Casandra Marie Miller, 28, of Lincolnton were arrested on Monday, and charged with one felony count of assault of an individual with a disability and one misdemeanor count of assault with a deadly weapon. – Fox 46 – March 5, 2019 – (North Carolina) - <https://is.gd/pAsTf9>

21. “Wooster Man Accused of Raping Disabled Girl” - Nathan Hoyle, 28, of the 2500 block of Montclair Avenue, is charged with one count of rape, a first-degree felony, two counts of sexual battery, a third-degree felony, and one count of gross sexual imposition, a fourth-degree felony. According to the indictment, filed Jan. 28 in the Wayne County Common Pleas Court, the alleged incidents took place between January 2008 and July 2009, when Hoyle

was 17 and 18 and the girl was 13 and 14. – Akron Beacon Journal – March 5, 2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/FPkVJS>

22. “Former Mason Retirement Home Worker Charged with Rape of a Patient in 2000” – A former employee of a Mason retirement community has been charged with raping a patient there 19 years ago. Michael Schneider, 55, faces one count of rape. – Local 2 News – March 5 ,2019 – (Ohio) - <https://is.gd/lcTAfp>

23. “Neglect At Ashland Nursing Home Caused ‘Extended Suffering’ For Weeks, Suit Claims” - The suit, filed by the woman’s daughter, seeks up to \$18 million from Linda Vista Nursing and Rehab Center, three employees and parent company [Prestige Care](#) of Vancouver. One of those employees has been indicted on seven felony charges. – The Oregonian – March 3, 2019 – (Oregon) - <https://is.gd/ahLW1N>

24. “Jury: Behavioral Therapist Molested Autistic Client” - The Multnomah County District Attorney says that a jury unanimously found [Abigail Kim](#) guilty on Monday of one count each of second-degree rape and sodomy and six counts of first-degree sexual assault. – The Washington Times – March 5, 2019 – (Oregon) - <https://is.gd/N8bFSF>

25. “Marc A. Thiessen: Pope Francis’s Sex Abuse Speech Was a Disgraceful Display of Excuses”- Pope Francis’s closing address to the Vatican Summit on Child Protection was a disgraceful display of excuses and evasions. – Pittsburgh Post Gazette – March 2, 2019 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://tinyurl.com/y2tdw8tx>

26. “Resident Dies Following Fight at Houston Boarding Home That Was Operating Without Permits” - Franklin Earl Thompson, 59, had lived at Harmony Care

Boarding Home at 4633 Knoxville for about five months before the fight on Saturday, said his son, Michael Brown. Police described the home as a boarding facility "for the physically and mentally disabled," but Thompson was neither, Brown said. He was a parolee. The fight and Thompson's death have put the home in the public spotlight. City officials said it has been operating without a permit since at least Jan. 18, when the Houston police Mental Health Unit most recently inspected the home. – Chron- March 4, 2019 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/Kstgtl>

27. "Caught On Video: Man Pleads Guilty to Abusing an Elderly Dementia Patient" - In a plea bargain with prosecutors, Jason Harold Knox, 30, admitted Monday to two counts of aggravated abuse of a disabled or elder adult, both second-degree felonies. In return for the guilty pleas, the Utah Attorney General's Office dropped two other similar charges. – Standard Examiner – March 6, 2019 – (Utah) - <https://is.gd/NmYcyO>

28. "Greeter Job Going Away, But Disabled Employees Are Not, Walmart Says" - Walmart endured more than a week's worth of bad publicity before announcing that it was making "every effort" to find a role for [disabled workers who had been threatened with job loss as the retailer gets rid of greeters](#) at 1,000 stores. – NBC News – March 2, 2019 – (Washington) - <https://tinyurl.com/yxch2nbg>

GUARDIANSHIP

29. "Survey On Guardianship of Individuals with Fragile X Syndrome" - The University of Colorado and Children's Hospital Colorado is conducting a research study to learn more about the guardianship experience of individuals with Fragile X Syndrome. We are currently looking for survey participants. – National Fragile X Foundation – March 1, 2019 – (Colorado) - <https://is.gd/u96A4L>

30. “Study Provides Evidence On How Supervision and Special Guardianship Orders Are Used” - 20% of all children in England who return home after care proceedings and are placed on a supervision order are back in the family court within 5 years because of further significant harm, new research led by Lancaster University has found. – News – Medical Life Sciences – March 5, 2019 – (England) - <https://is.gd/o4nGDP>
31. “Court appointed accountant charged with theft, exploitation” - Certified Public Accountant Joshua Gottesman is facing nearly 50 criminal charges--all them felonies---including theft and exploitation of a vulnerable person. All of it happened under the not-so-watchful eye of Clark County Family Court. – KTNV – March 1, 2019 – (Nevada) - <https://is.gd/SHQDA1>
32. “Legislation Bolsters Guardianship Reforms” - The legislation, sponsored by Sen. Jim White, R-Albuquerque, and Rep. Daymon Ely, D-Corralles, builds on the slate of reforms enacted in 2018 that aimed at injecting transparency and accountability into New Mexico’s guardian/conservator system. – Albuquerque Journal – March 2, 2019 – (New Mexico) - <https://is.gd/Spb3gw>
33. “Adult Guardianship Group To Propose Changes In Law, Practice To NCGA” - The group [Rethinking Guardianship](#) has been working since 2015 on ideas for changing the North Carolina laws and practice governing the removal of a person’s right to make life decisions. If a person is found to lack the ability to make and communicate key decisions, a North Carolina county clerk of court can name someone to look after his or her affairs. – North Carolina Health News – March 4, 2019 – (North Carolina) - <https://is.gd/Qx3SUR>

34. Ohio's Guardianship Laws Leave Seniors Vulnerable to Abuse - Ohio has struggled to care for vulnerable seniors, and it's getting worse. The state's probate courts are responsible for creating and monitoring guardianships of the frail elderly, balancing freedom and protection. Marion Star- March 1, 2019 - (Ohio) - <https://tinyurl.com/y6gk6kwd>

LAWS & LEGISLATION

35. "Grassley Announces Hearing On Nursing Home Abuse & Neglect" - Sen. Chuck Grassley has announced that a hearing will be held by the Senate Committee on Finance about nursing home neglect and abuse. Testimony will be heard on "Not Forgotten: Protecting Americans From Abuse and Neglect in Nursing Homes." – We Are Iowa – February 27, 2019 – (D.C.) - <https://is.gd/IM1Upr>

36. "Bill to Tighten Rules for Group Homes for Mentally Ill Gets Hearing" - Assembly Bill 131, taken up by the Health Committee on Friday, would allow the state's Health Care Quality and Compliance unit to oversee licensure and regulation of community-based living arrangements as it does other types of residential facilities. – Las Vegas Review Journal – March 1, 2019 – (Nevada) - <https://tinyurl.com/y6m768fh>

37. "Lawmakers Consider Cameras in Classes with Special Needs Students" - Senate Bill 109 would put cameras in classrooms where more than half the students are non-verbal, often because of autism. The bills' sponsor, Republican state Senator Scott Hammond said there were 127 employees on student abuse investigations last school year in Clark County and most of those were in special education classrooms. – Las Vegas Now – March 1, 2019 – (Nevada) - <https://is.gd/k429eU>

38. “Legislators Should Ensure Parents of Autistic Children Get Fair Insurance Coverage” - In South Carolina, Ryan’s Law requires that large group health insurance plans and the State Health Plan cover autism therapy, but with many restrictions. It was enacted 12 years ago, and we now know that those restrictions are inappropriate. – The State – March 3, 2019 – (South Carolina) - <https://is.gd/aOPdF7>
39. “Mentally Ill Defendants Warehoused in Jail Could Get Relief from Tacoma Lawmaker’s Bill” - A bill sponsored by Rep. Laurie Jinkins, D-Tacoma, would make several changes based on last year’s legal settlement between a nonprofit advocacy group, Disability Rights Washington, and the state. The 2014 lawsuit is known as Trueblood, named after attorney Cassie Trueblood, who originally filed a suit over competency services on behalf of a client. – The News Tribune – March 1, 2019 – (Washington)- <https://tinyurl.com/y68o3mtl>

STUDIES & STATISTICS

40. “Study: Prenatal Vitamins Can Lower Chances of Autism” - Researchers think the folic acid may be a big contributing factor. It is linked to healthy brain development throughout childhood. – CBS Sacramento – March 1, 2019 – (California) - <https://tinyurl.com/y2nxzvbs>
41. “Large Study Confirms No Association Between Autism, MMR Vaccine” - Children who received the MMR vaccine were no more likely to have autism than those who did not get the immunization, according to findings [published](#) Monday in the Annals of Internal Medicine – Disability Scoop- March 4, 2019 – (Sweden) - <https://is.gd/ApuhIC>
42. “Elder Abuse Cases Rise Again in Virginia” - Abuse and neglect of elderly and disabled Virginians rose again last year, the state’s Department for Aging and

Rehabilitative Services reported Tuesday. Proven cases rose 9 percent during fiscal year 2018, with some 11,924 Virginians suffering some kind of neglect or physical, mental or financial abuse. Cases were up 12 percent in fiscal 2017. – Daily Press – March 5, 2019 – Virginia - <https://is.gd/WCAkBU>

IMPROVED SUPPORTS

43. “Program Helps Students with Special Needs Leave School with Jobs” - The program called “Project SEARCH is changing the lives of special needs students in the Darlington County School District. The district launched the program last year through a partnership with Carolina Pines Hospital in Hartsville. – WPDE 15 News – March 1, 2019 – (South Carolina) - <https://is.gd/dPn3cF>

INTERNATIONAL

44. “Federal Funds for Disability Probe: Labor” - The opposition wants people with disability to be represented among the royal commissioners and for a broad consultation process to develop the terms of reference. People with disability, their families and advocates should be able to review the draft terms of reference and provide feedback, they say. – Weekly Times Now – March 4, 2019 – (Australia)- <https://is.gd/vFdD17>

45. “She was left for hours in her own mess: aged care inquiry hears of abuse and neglect” - Shortage of nursing home staff and lack of empathy the recurring themes at a community forum for the royal commission – The Guardian – March 5, 2019 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/fiLa2k>

46. “Suspect Found Not Criminally Culpable in Halifax Nursing Home Death: Police” - Police say charges won't be laid in the death of a 94-year-old resident

of a Halifax-area nursing home this summer because the suspect is "cognitively impaired." – CTV News – March 2, 2019 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/FxIzN1>

47. "Human Rights of People with Disabilities Violated by Hospital: Inquiry" - A human rights inquiry has found that the human rights of three people with intellectual disabilities were violated by confining them in a Nova Scotia hospital ward for more than a decade. The applicants in the case — Beth MacLean, Joseph Delaney and the late Sheila Livingstone — had argued that the province should have provided them with small homes in the community with suitable care and support. – The Star Halifax – March 4, 2019 – (Canada) - <https://is.gd/yBYU4K>

48. "Disabled Children 'Constantly' Physically Restrained and Left with Bruises and Trauma, Parents Say" - Children with learning disabilities and complex needs have been physically restrained in school as much as 80 times in just three months, leaving them injured and traumatised, parents say. – Independent – March 2, 2019 – (England) - <https://is.gd/TBf161>

49. "Students Help To Create Guidance To Protect Vulnerable People Online" - It was decided that his iPad usage was to be supervised and limited by carers, his mobile phone contract was capped with no internet access, and staff could check whether he received any unwanted text messages and to ensure he was not engaging in inappropriate communications. These restrictions will enable him to safely use the internet and social media, protecting him from online risks. – University of Manchester – March 4, 2019 – (England) - <https://is.gd/JODX1y>

*This seems to be a bit inappropriate to me ... your call

50. “More protection for vulnerable victims under proposed changes to Penal Code” | Video - Singapore's criminal law framework is set to get a major overhaul with sweeping changes proposed to the 150-year-old Penal Code. In this week's Spotlight, Lee Li Ying explores if key proposals like decriminalizing suicide and punishing bystanders for not stepping in to prevent abuse will make a difference in protecting victims. – Channel News Asia – March 3, 2019 – (Singapore) - <https://is.gd/lXJx5b>

51. “Tanzania Arrests 65 'Witchdoctors' Over Killings” - There is a particular belief that the body parts of people with albinism are especially potent in the rituals, leading to many killings. However it is not clear if any of the 10 children known to have been killed had albinism.- BBC News – March 4, 2019 – (Tanzania) - <https://is.gd/pYEAx9>

52. “Autistic People Angry At Having To Disclose Diagnosis To DVLA Even If Driving Not Affected” - The [National Autistic Society](#) (NAS) is challenging a decision by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) to force autistic people to inform them of their diagnosis even if it does not affect their driving. – The Guardian – March 3, 2019 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/8z1dza>

MISCELLANEOUS

53. “Rego & Plunkett: Sexual Assault Among People with Disabilities Is Overlooked” - People with disabilities are overlooked in many aspects of everyday life. People without disabilities sometimes do not fully consider all the various struggles that disproportionately affect this community. Heinous crimes, such as violence and sexual assault, are higher for this population of people than anyone else. – Collegian – March 2019 – (Colorado) - <https://is.gd/27c4rm>