

Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of April 14 to April 21, 2018

Articles Compiled by Jennifer Palmer

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:

Child Pornography: 2

Sexual Assault: 9, 81, 84

Physical Abuse: 6, 86, 90, 106

Financial abuse: 5 (armed robbery planned)

Murder: 1, 3 (death due to prescription)

Neglected: 73

Wandered: 105

Related to special education: 64

Guardianship: 10_***SPECIAL NOTE: This article quotes our very own Tom Coleman in article on Texas guardianship reform efforts!!

Studies & Statistics: 30: Punishment studies statewide of special education students who racial disparities; 39: Milwaukee study shows significant real disparities in the school to prison pipeline;

WINNER of most egregious award: 3: State closes group home after deaths and abuse/neglect continue.

WINNER of “good job” award: 62: Mother builds successful business to create employment for her son and others with disabilities.

Good News: 13: New law to change rules of who can be approved as representative payee for people receiving SSI; 14: People sterilized by government order may get reparations [Note: cross ref #7] 40: Google maps adds wheelchair accessibility; 60: St. Paul parks to comply with ADA – after 26 years! 67: Parents in TX advocate for improved schools; 71: increased awareness of needs of people with disabilities during disasters.

Bad News: 16: Iowa’s mental health services reports personal patient information was compromised; 18: White House has ONE entry on its website under “people with disabilities!!”; 20: Civil rights advocate being shut down by US Dept. of Education; 22: Ride companies oppose wheelchair accessibility mandate; 27: VA governor opts to discontinue funding for housing for 100 residents of “training center, replace with housing without similar oversight and regulations; 41: children with autism are more likely to take antipsychotic medications at younger ages and for longer than others; 47: funding unsure for group home in CA; 101: discrimination and bias continue over time.

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>

ABUSE & NEGLECT

1. “TV producer suspected in deaf sister’s death to be extradited to California next week.” A television producer arrested on suspicion of killing her deaf sister three years ago is not fighting extradition from Baltimore and is set to be brought back to Los Angeles next week to face charges, according to a Los Angeles police detective. --- mercurynews.com, April 18 (California) <https://is.gd/kufnwh>
2. “Englewood brothers arrested for child exploitation, neglect.” Two brothers from Englewood were arrested after authorities found child pornography and children’s underwear inside their home, according to an arrest affidavit. --- kdvr.com, April 18 (Colorado) <https://is.gd/DOHcNt>
3. “Florida Moves to Shut Down For-Profit Residence After Finding Horrific Abuse and Neglect.” After another patient died under suspicious circumstances and reports surfaced of more instances of abuse and neglect, Florida regulators moved this week to shutter a for-profit school and residential campus for children and adults with severe developmental disabilities. --- propublica.org, April 19 (Florida) <https://is.gd/NSrz3i>
4. “School employees fired for allegedly mocking a 12-year-old autistic student.” Two teachers in Louisiana have been fired after an audio recording allegedly captured them mocking and saying inappropriate things about a boy with severe autism. --- yahoo.com, April 12 (Louisiana) <https://is.gd/pR3yda>
5. “Elm Grove Police Department seek woman who it says planned November group home armed robbery.” The Elm Grove Police Department is looking for a woman who was involved with an armed robbery of a residential group home on Westmoor Terrace in Elm Grove in November. --- jsonline.com, April 13 (Wisconsin) <https://is.gd/PV68aJ>

6. "Group home employee sentenced." A group home worker accused of placing a resident in a "choke hold" is sentenced. Wednesday in Eau Claire County court, Joshua Mielke pleaded no contest and was found guilty of amended misdemeanor charges of abuse of a patient and bail jumping. --- weau.com, April 17 (Wisconsin) <https://is.gd/TvKI7A>

GUARDIANSHIP

7. "Teaching parents about guardianship of disabled children." The Community and Residential Services Authority, Family Matters Parent Training and Information Center, along with The Autism Program at CTF Illinois, teamed up to host a free workshop for parents with special needs children, in order to help guide them through the transition into adulthood. --- effinghamdailynews.com, April 15 (Indiana) <https://is.gd/qodvoe>
8. "How is a judge to rule when there is no law?" Last month, I discussed how a judge got the ruling correct, but the law was wrong. But what if there is no law? What is the court to do? --- thedailyrecord.com, April 16 (Maryland) <https://is.gd/RtjNkO>
9. "Young woman with disabilities raped at a group home in Little Canada." A woman with severe intellectual and physical disabilities was sexually assaulted by a male caregiver who worked the overnight shift at a group home in Little Canada, the second such incident this year, according to state and police records. --- startribune.com, April 17 (Minnesota) <https://is.gd/XgeqpZ>
10. "New Court Filing Argues the State's Guardianship System Puts the Disabled at Risk." A group that advocates for the rights of the disabled has filed a class action complaint with the Texas Supreme Court arguing that the state's adult guardianship system violates parts of the Americans With Disabilities Act. --- sacurrent.com, April 16 (Texas) <https://is.gd/fNMovr>

11. "Bill would require background checks for guardianship." State Rep. Mark Gillen sponsored the measure. It would also prevent those with felony convictions from serving as guardians. --- readingeagle.com, April 14 (Pennsylvania) <https://is.gd/YlwNRE>

LAWS & LEGISLATION

12. "New US laws targeting sex workers will harm autistic people." Sex workers are under threat. Those on the autistic spectrum are even more at risk because they have few places to turn to. --- metro.co.uk, April 17 <https://is.gd/UedtTZ>
13. "Trump Signs Bill Adding Protections for Social Security, SSI Recipients." Individuals tasked with handling Social Security payments for people with disabilities will be subject to greater scrutiny under a new law signed by President Donald Trump. --- disabilitycoop.com, April 17 <https://is.gd/5cYDxF>
14. "Thousands Were Sterilized Under California's Eugenics Law. Now Survivors Could Get Reparations." "As reproductive justice advocates, we recognize the insidious impact state-sponsored policies have on the dignity and rights of poor women of color who are often stripped of their ability to form the families they want." --- rewire.news, April 19 (California) <https://is.gd/BkKnAl>
15. "Good work, Colorado, but we still have a long way to go." On March 21, Gov. John Hickenlooper signed a bill that represents one more step forward in the efforts to recognize people with intellectual and developmental disabilities as equal and contributing members of our society. --- durangoherald.com, April 13 (Colorado) <https://is.gd/J1Spv6>

16. “Iowa mental health service says personal info disclosed.” A Polk County public health agency that provides services for those with mental illness and intellectual or other developmental disabilities says the personal information of more than 500 patients has been compromised. --- sfchronicle.com, April 14 (Iowa) <https://is.gd/ApXm9F>
17. “Disabled not being heard in education directives.” A search of the White House website using the term “people with disabilities” yields a whopping one result — a bland, boiler-plate statement issued Dec. 17, International Persons with Disabilities Day, pledging to lead the way among nations in improving the lives of the disabled. --- kansas.com, April 15 (Kansas) <https://is.gd/0kywdK>
18. “In Kentucky, teachers claim victory as vetoes rejected.” As Kentucky teachers declare victory after the Republican-dominated legislature overrode vetoes from the state’s GOP governor of a spending plan that included new money for education, the question going forward is whether teachers will be able to sustain their momentum into the fall elections when Republicans will try to defend their super majority. --- wtop.com, April 13 (Kentucky) <https://is.gd/doXTHQ>
19. “The big winners of Kentucky's 2018 legislative session: Social workers and children.” State social workers, enduring low pay, high caseloads and constant turnover, will be up for pay raises in the coming budget year as well as new equipment to replace outdated cellphones and computers. --- courier-journal.com, April 17 (Kentucky) <https://is.gd/irjJnu>
20. “A Civil Rights Activist Filed Thousands of Disability Complaints. Now the Education Department Is Trying to Shut her Down.” Marcie Lipsitt used to enjoy checking the mail. But these days, not so much. Over the course of several years, the disability rights activist has filed thousands of federal civil rights complaints against school districts and universities across the country — all part of a personal crusade to make websites accessible for people with disabilities. --- the74million.org, April 18 (Michigan)

<https://is.gd/hOGA4J>

21. “Dayton proposes new special education money.” Gov. Mark Dayton has proposed an additional \$19 million in special education funding for next year, as such expenses rise throughout the state. ---
duluthnewstribune.com, April 12 (Minnesota) <https://is.gd/vNsJG3>
22. “Uber, Lyft and Via sue to block wheelchair-accessibility mandate.” The city's three biggest ride-hail companies have banded together to undo the recently passed Taxi and Limousine Commission mandate requiring them to make wheelchair accessible service a growing part of their operations. ---
crainsnewyork.com, April 13 (New York) <https://is.gd/1awcU6>
23. “Trumbull prosecutor seeks appeal to U.S. Supreme Court of Danny Lee Hill decision.” The judges from the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati have refused to hear an appeal of a ruling calling for the removal of the death penalty for killer Danny Lee Hill. ---
vindy.com, April 14 (Ohio) <https://is.gd/ddPWkC>
24. “Mother starting to lose hope in getting justice for murdered son.” A mother, who spent more than three decades trying to get justice for her murdered son, says she now fears the man convicted of killing him will be taken off death row. ---
fox8.com, April 12 (Ohio) <https://is.gd/MZ14As>
25. “Pennsylvania House Votes to Ban Abortions for Down Syndrome.” A proposal to prohibit abortions in Pennsylvania when the sole reason is that the fetus has or may have Down syndrome passed the state House on Monday by a comfortable margin. ---
usnews.com, April 16 (Pennsylvania) <https://is.gd/LHIEH8>
26. “Rhode Island Recommits to Vendor Behind Troubled Social Services System.” The Raimondo administration has extended until next spring the state's contract with Deloitte Consulting, the company that designed and delivered the \$492 million, trouble-plagued, eligibility-verification computer system — known as UHIP — for a wide array of public-assistance

programs for the poor from food stamps to cash assistance to Medicaid. --- govtech.com, April 17 (Rhode Island) <https://is.gd/zmpJnd>

27. “Governor not swayed by attempts to save CVTC.” Despite the continued efforts of local legislators and families to stop the closure of the Central Virginia Training Center — which cares for 100 residents with severe intellectual and developmental disabilities as of April 2 — the state is moving forward. --- newsadvance.com, April 14 (Virginia) <https://is.gd/OAJrbl>

STUDIES & STATISTICS

28. “People with Autism Aren’t Protected from Opioid Addiction. They Might Be at Higher Risk.” I used to work for an autism treatment program, but now I work on an addiction and detox unit. Recently, I was sent a video from a series posted by the Des Moines Register titled “The Lost Boys of Heroin.” --- slate.com, April 19 <https://is.gd/JGGWzq>
29. “AI has already started reshaping the Special Education.” Educational technology is not a new concept, technology has been widely used in education for decades. However, like in every other area of our lives from shopping to the dating, AI has infiltrated in education and started to be taking it one step further. --- forbes.com, April 17 <https://is.gd/J3ETJS>
30. “Report finds wide disparities in punishment of students with disabilities by race.” A new report providing the first state-by-state estimate of lost instruction due to discipline for black and white students with disabilities finds dramatic disparities in suspensions by race. The study, called “Disabling Punishment: The Need for Remedies to the Disparate Loss of Instruction Experience by Black Students with Disabilities,” was conducted by the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race & Justice at Harvard Law School(CHHI) and UCLA’s Center for Civil Rights Remedies at The Civil

Rights Project. --- today.law.harvard.edu, April 19 <https://is.gd/Olh80T>

31. “Nation’s Report Card Shows Students with Disabilities Lagging.” A routine look at how fourth and eighth graders across the country are performing in reading and math finds children with disabilities struggling to make progress. --- disabilityscoop.com, April 13 <https://is.gd/uRfeRi>
32. “Association Between Psychosis and Development of Dementia in Older Men.” The findings of a prospective cohort study in Psychological Medicine identified the presence of a psychotic disorder in men as a significant predictor of dementia, although the specific mechanisms underlying this phenomenon have yet to be clarified. --- psychiatryadvisor.com, April 13 <https://is.gd/XspL3c>
33. “Clinicians make mistakes about intellectual impairments – as new Rett syndrome findings show.” Intelligence is a difficult thing to measure. While IQ tests have been heavily criticized over the last 30 years, society still sets much store by them. Health and education professionals’ decisions about what placements and interventions are appropriate for disabled children are still informed by the child’s IQ score, for example. --- theconversation.com, April 17 <https://is.gd/G3QNgA>
34. “Autistic children may inherit DNA mutations from their fathers.” There is no one gene that, when mutated, causes autism. But over the past decade, researchers have identified hundreds of gene variations that seem to affect brain development in ways that increase the risk of autism. --- sciencemag.org, April 19 <https://is.gd/kg2zBz>
35. “Research Suggests that Kids with Brain Injuries Have a Higher Risk of ADHD.” Young children who suffered a traumatic brain injury are at risk of developing the brain-based disorder known for causing attention difficulty and hyperactivity. --- everydayhealth.com, April 17 <https://is.gd/ydjrtX>
36. “‘It’s like Star Wars’: The potential future of gene-editing for autism treatment.” April is National Autism Awareness Month. On Monday’s St.

Louis on the Air, host Don Marsh talked about the prevalence of autism and discussed the latest research in the diagnosis and treatment of autism. --- stlpublicradio.org, April 16 (Missouri) <https://is.gd/SQztNt>

37. “Upstate Medical University developing saliva test to identify autism.” Researchers at Upstate Medical University are almost ready to send a test to market that would use saliva to help determine if a child is autistic. --- wrvo.org, April 16 (New York) <https://is.gd/i6cQBR>
38. “Meeting the Needs of Adults with Disabilities in the Marketplace.” The needs of adults with disabilities are frequently overlooked in the marketplace and when businesses are designing and promoting products and services. --- globenewswire.com, April 17 (Washington DC) <https://is.gd/4Pv2pr>
39. “Milwaukee Schools: Preparing Kids for Life, or for Life in Prison?” A report by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights (OCR) released Wednesday found that Black Milwaukee area students accounted for 80 percent of all school suspensions and 87 percent of all school expulsions in the MPS system. --- madison365.com, April 12 (Wisconsin) <https://is.gd/zp848y>
40. “Manawa 'paving the way' for special education students.” Manawa School districts opens an off-campus site dedicated to preparing special education students. --- wbay.com, April 12 (Wisconsin) <https://is.gd/foqfif>
41. “Children with autism bear brunt of antipsychotic drugs.” Children with autism and intellectual difficulties are more likely to be prescribed antipsychotic drugs than their typical peers, according to a large study based in the United Kingdom. They are also prescribed antipsychotics such as risperidone at younger ages, and for longer periods of time. --- spectrumnews.org, April 18 (UK) <https://is.gd/paBkWf>

IMPROVED SUPPORTS

42. “‘So Can You F*ck?’: What It’s Like to Online Date With a Disability.” It’s not news that lots of women receive ridiculous and misogynistic messages on dating apps, especially on Tinder. But as a 22-year-old with cerebral palsy, I get one at least twice a week. --- thedailybeast.com, April 14
<https://is.gd/R7Ywng>
43. “Google Maps Makes a Modest Attempt at Wheelchair Accessibility.” Recently, Google Maps rolled out a “Wheelchair Accessible” travel feature, which sends users on alternate routes that account for necessities like ramps and elevators. --- hyperallergic.com, April 13 <https://is.gd/n28Qxm>
44. “Doctor Makes Great Strides with Unique Treatment for Autism.” Despite significant scientific advances, we currently do not know the primary cause(s) and cure of autism. Thus, a unique, safe, and rapid medical treatment capable of improving the many secondary coexisting inner-ear-determined symptoms complicating this often debilitating disorder deserves attention. --- autismparentingmagazine.com, April 14
<https://is.gd/cYV4ll>
45. “Pass the Pinwheel event sheds light on child abuse statistics.” Pinwheels symbolize childhood as it should be: safe, happy and healthy. With this in mind, local leaders and volunteers fanned out across the city on Friday to pass out blue pinwheels in support of Child Abuse Prevention Month. --- americanpress.com, April 14 <https://is.gd/fqQZdV>
46. “Trying tasks, meager wages: Caregivers lobby for better pay.” Hans can be sweet. The wiry 21-year-old will spontaneously ask his caregivers for a hug or what they want for their birthdays. But his spot on the severe end of the autism spectrum also makes him loud and prone to repeating the same question over and over again, especially when he’s excited or agitated. --- sandiegouniontribune.com, April 16 (California) <https://is.gd/1laRq5>

47. “Lack of state funding threatens Santa Rosa home for people with developmental disabilities.” Chrissy Wilka’s house on Baird Road in Santa Rosa’s Rincon Valley neighborhood is classified as an ICF/DD-CNC — an intermediate care facility with 24-hour continuous skilled nursing care for those with developmental disabilities. --- petaluma360.com, April 12 (California) <https://is.gd/FilHNh>
48. “Center for Autism and Related Disorders meets individual’s needs.” In 1990, Dr. Doreen Granpeesheh founded the Center for Autism & Related Disorders with one location in Woodland Hills. CARD is the world’s largest and most experienced organization effectively treating individuals affected by autism spectrum disorder, according to their website. --- auburnjournal.com, April 13 (California) <https://is.gd/h4GSNb>
49. “Thumbs down: States adds to the housing crisis.” California has been shortchanging its special-needs residents for generations. It’s still infuriating to learn that an inexplicable difference in state reimbursement rates is about to cost Santa Rosa a longtime home for people suffering developmental disabilities. --- pressdemocrat.com, April 14 (California) <https://is.gd/wB3UAB>
50. “Program prepares students with autism for college life.” Michael Schiro was confused by the envelope he received in the mail from Adelphi University one afternoon in January. --- stamfordadvocate.com, April 15 (Connecticut) <https://is.gd/RpEH5V>
51. “District 64 hires 20-year veteran to lead special ed programs after 'turbulent' period.” The Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 Board of Education unanimously agreed to tap a 20-year veteran of special education programs as the district's new director of student services, capping what Board President Anthony Borrelli called a “turbulent” period. --- chicagotribune.com, April 16 (Illinois) <https://is.gd/wQe8dM>
52. “Slowik: Caregivers support expanding alerts to include people with disabilities.” I’ve always used my role as a journalist to advocate for people

with disabilities. --- chicagotribune.com, April 18 (Illinois)
<https://is.gd/rF9xlu>

53. "'Best Buddies" organization helping the state help people living with developmental disabilities." The state of Indiana is in the middle of a five-year plan to help those living with developmental disabilities improve their quality of life and offer more opportunities for competitive, living wage jobs. --- theindychannel.com, April 13 (Indiana) <https://is.gd/nuZZGC>
54. "Autistic children meet first responders in Iowa City." Children on the autism spectrum may be more likely to seek or accept help from a police officer or firefighter if they've met emergency responders before in a friendly, non-emergency setting. --- thegazette.com, April 17 (Iowa) <https://is.gd/9qhw2p>
55. "Mass. Advocates for Children: Fighting for the Rights of Young Students." Readers, imagine yourself waiting for the most opulent being in your life: your child. As the yellow bus approaches, you feel calm, ready to hear your child's stories of the day. --- sparechangenews.net, April 17 (Massachusetts) <https://is.gd/NO3P57>
56. "Parents protest GRPS special ed director, supt." Parents and educators upset with the special education program at Grand Rapids Public Schools put their concerns to the district's Board of Education Monday. --- woodtv.com, April 16 (Michigan) <https://is.gd/PQMmll>
57. "New ordinance proposal calls for Civil Rights Department, robust anti-discrimination legislation in Grand Rapids." "The citizens in Grand Rapids are totally unprotected from discrimination, totally. The Michigan Department of Civil Rights has a couple good investigators and I mean a couple," says Lyonel LaGrone, Policy Liaison for LINC UP, a local community development organization. --- therapidian.org, April 13 (Michigan) <https://is.gd/dhK9vH>

58. "Online academy helps boy who has autism thrive in his education." For kids struggling with Autism, school can be a huge hurdle, for both them and their parents. Managing their daily routine in the classroom can be a real challenge for the one and 68 kids who are autistic. --- fox47news.com, April 17 (Michigan) <https://is.gd/yhFAJi>
59. "Royals sign outfielder with autism to minor league contract." The Kansas City Royals have seen how Tarik El-Abour has handled the challenges presented by autism. Now they're giving him a chance to pursue his dream of a professional baseball career. --- foxsports.com, April 13 (Missouri) <https://is.gd/ru0oJO>
60. "St. Paul parks to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act, 26 years after deadline." The plan identifies 33 projects that will cost more than \$150,000, plus staff time, to be completed between 2018 and 2025. --- startribune.com, April 13 (Minnesota) <https://is.gd/VKkgVf>
61. "Teacher presses charges after autistic 8-year-old punches her, police say." An autistic 8-year-old boy is facing a battery charge after his special education teacher filed a police report after he punched her, according to reports. --- wpxi.com, April 9 (New Mexico) <https://is.gd/NXBBQg>
62. "Mom started business for autistic son. Now she employs 20 like him." When her husband suddenly died in 2010, Stella Spanakos felt uncertain about what the future would hold for Nicholas, their son. Nicholas has autism, and this inspired Spanakos to think of a job he could be good at. ---- yahoo.com, April 15 (New York) <https://is.gd/nXzkMu>
63. "City Increases Efforts to Hire Employees with Disabilities." In an effort to have a more diverse workforce, the City of Pittsburgh is increasing its recruitment for people with physical and developmental disabilities. This will be through a partnership with United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania's 21 and Able program, an initiative that helps adults with disabilities transition into the workforce. --- wesa.fm, April 16

(Pennsylvania) <https://is.gd/3othEg>

64. “Doctors with disabilities seek to mend attitudes.” When Stacy Jones arrived at medical school at Harvard University, she was prepared to struggle. She’d always been aware in the back of her mind that certain aspects of academics were tough for her. She figured she’d just have to work even harder. But that “work harder” strategy didn’t work out so well. --- phillytrib.com, April 14 (Pennsylvania) <https://is.gd/r6E41s>
65. “Surfside Beach touts new handicapped ramp.” The Town of Surfside Beach has built a new handicapped ramp to the beach, according to a post on its Facebook page. --- myrtlebeachonline.com, April 15 (South Carolina) <https://is.gd/V2Xnpu>
66. “Siskin, Vanderbilt bring autism training to Chattanooga.” When it comes to diagnosing children with autism spectrum disorder, Katherine Gotham says the earlier the better. --- timesfreepress.com, April 14 (Tennessee) <https://is.gd/egBSBx>
67. “‘Break the system,’ parents say of overhauling Texas’ special education.” Texas needs to revamp teacher training, provide adequate resources for children with the most severe disabilities and -- most critically -- funnel more money to public schools so districts can implement an ambitious plan to overhaul the state's embattled special education system, advocates said. --- dallasnews.com, April 16 (Texas) <https://is.gd/Sklns7>
68. “Pre-apprenticeship program prepares individuals with disabilities for work.” The Shenandoah Valley Workforce Development Board is working with the Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center to help individuals with disabilities obtain the skills they need to find jobs. --- whsv.com, April 12 (Virginia) <https://is.gd/C8cCsU>
69. “LCPS looking to address special education concerns.” Since the Times-Mirror’s publishing of an article on Loudoun County Public Schools’ use of seclusion on students in special education, countless parents have spoken

out, organized and communicated with School Board members and LCPS administrators. --- loudountimes.com, April 16 (Virginia) <https://is.gd/IsLcLb>

INTERNATIONAL

70. "Province provides additional support for autistic children." Saskatchewan families with autistic children have received some extra support from the provincial government. --- larongenow.com, April 12 (Canada) <https://is.gd/onbEdW>
71. "Calgary university research helps bring awareness to sexual assault, abuse during disasters." Mount Royal University's Cathy Carter-Snell worked as a nurse in disaster zones and saw firsthand the risks to women and vulnerable populations in shelters --- thestar.com, April 18 (Canada) <https://is.gd/EvbfyE>
72. "Support group for parents of children with Down syndrome growing in Winnipeg." Being told her child was diagnosed with Down syndrome, raised a lot of questions for DeeDee Lauzon. --- globalnews.ca, April 14 (Canada) <https://is.gd/iQqEo8>
73. "Thorold couple charged with elder abuse." The screams of a woman could be heard daily, emanating from the back of the old Victorian home on the corner of Pine Street North and Townline Road. "Daily. Every day you would hear it, like constantly — scream, scream, scream," said Jennifer Sherwood, who has lived next door to the nearly 150-year-old Thorold building for about four years. --- stcatharinesstandard.ca, April 13 (Canada) <https://is.gd/WucAY2>
74. "Ombudsman seeks information after man with intellectual disability confined in home." Health Department says it will go to court to keep health records confidential --- cbc.ca, April 17 (Canada)

<https://is.gd/pkEUBG>

75. “Women at Yamagata home for intellectually disabled underwent group sterilization in 1960s.” A facility for the intellectually disabled run by the Yamagata Prefectural Government had female patients undergo group sterilizations in the 1960s under the now-defunct eugenics protection law (1948-1996) after obtaining their written consent, several sources have disclosed. --- mainichi.jp, April 16 (Japan) <https://is.gd/3vI3GB>
76. “How do the Dutch respond to euthanasia requests from the intellectually disabled?” How do intellectually disabled people fare in a country where euthanasia and assisted suicide are legal? Writing in BMC Medical Ethics, Baroness Ilora Finlay and three colleagues conclude that Dutch criteria for euthanasia “are not easily applied to people with intellectual disabilities and/or autism spectrum disorder, and do not appear to act as adequate safeguards.” --- bioedge.org, April 14 (Netherlands) <https://is.gd/xIriSG>
77. “Complaints of Discrimination against People with Disabilities at Record High.” The number of complaints about discrimination against people with disabilities reached a record high last year. The Netherlands Institute for Human Rights received a total of 810 such complaints, compared to 579 in 2016 and 342 in 2015, RTL Nieuws reports. --- nltimes.nl, April 16 (Netherlands) <https://is.gd/a4kHPa>
78. “Bracelet could help understanding on fetal alcohol behavior.” A University of Otago lecturer is calling for more awareness of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. About five percent of New Zealanders suffer from the disorder including Teina Pora who was wrongly convicted of sexual assault and murder of Susan Burdett in 1992. newstalkzb.co.nz, April 13 (New Zealand) <https://is.gd/buoSfl>
79. “Extra billions in social welfare spending ‘failing to meet needs’ of Hong Kong’s ageing population.” Research released by the city’s legislature shows that despite pledges to spend more in the coming years, Hong Kong is still underprepared for a greying citizenry, and some funds even go

unused --- scmp.com, April 13 (China) <https://is.gd/wclB2W>

80. "Autistic boy builds world's largest Lego Titanic replica." It took more than 11 months and 700 hours worth of attention to detail, but a 10-year-old boy from Iceland built the world's largest Lego Titanic replica which will now be on display in the U.S. --- mlive.com, April 16 (Iceland) <https://is.gd/cLKV5s>
81. "Physically handicapped minor allegedly raped by cousin in Siwan." An eight-year-old physically handicapped minor girl was allegedly raped by her 14-year-old cousin at village Chhitauli Khurd under Goriatoli police station area in Siwan district on Saturday. --- timesofindia.indiatimes.com, April 16 (India) <https://is.gd/3EcSOB>
82. "Disability group backs repeal of Eighth Amendment." The Eighth Amendment to the Constitution discriminates against women with disabilities and those with mobility issues for whom travel for abortion is more difficult, campaigners supporting its repeal have said. --- irishtimes.com, April 16 (Ireland) <https://is.gd/jNVY8c>
83. "U.S. Delegation to Explore Israeli Innovations in Disabilities." Almost 25 years after its founding, Friendship Circle will further complement the lives of people with disabilities during an unprecedented leadership mission to Israel from April 22-26, designed to tap the country's significant advances in the field and facilitate an exchange and sharing of information by all. --- chabad.org, April 15 (Israel) <https://is.gd/MA9KIL>
84. "Official team visits children's home after 'sexual abuse'." "We have completed the inquiry at the girls' section and will visit the boys' home as well," an official in the inquiry team said. The home authorities were not available for comment. The official team found out that in a bid to restrain the victim, she was separated from the group and kept in a room alone. According to the complaint, in February, a 17-year-old male inmate had sexually-abused a pre-adolescent girl. --- nyoooz.com, April 17 (New

Zealand) <https://is.gd/MeG5EP>

85. “Towards an inclusive Pakistan.” Pakistan ratified the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2011. We became the 101st country to have done so. Pursuant to the Convention, Pakistan had to take a number of steps for the differently-abled. --- dailymail.com, April 18 (Pakistan) <https://is.gd/xW4Jlf>
86. “I was locked in a cupboard at school!” Jacob and his mother Tina admit his extreme behaviour was a big problem, but they did not expect his primary school to lock a five-year-old in a store cupboard to calm him down. --- bbc.com, April 16 (Scotland) <https://is.gd/elh31g>
87. “The sinister segregation policies excluding children who don't 'fit in'.” Human progress is slow to happen and sometimes hard to see: in an era as troubled as ours, the world can easily look as though it is regressing at speed. But look back, and you may see how far we have come. I grew up in a world where grim words such as “handicapped” and “retarded” were part of everyday speech, and disabled people were too often shut away. --- theguardian.com, April 16 (UK) <https://is.gd/lj9wCj>
88. “Self-driving AI wheelchair to aiding people with disabilities.” The research team at Imperial College London has won \$50k. The prize was announced as part of Mobility Unlimited Challenge Discovery Award, which is funded by Toyota Mobility Foundation and run by Nesta’s Challenge Prize Centre. --- techexplorist.com, April 13 (UK) <https://is.gd/MdP1fg>
89. “Families crowdfund legal action against special needs budget cuts.” Families of children with special needs are joining forces to fund legal action against local authorities in England that are cutting budgets, after the teaching union said children who could not be supported were being taken out of schools. --- theguardian.com, April 13 (UK) <https://is.gd/JcA55w>

90. “Did care home cover up scandal? Three-year police probe fails to rule out conspiracy in the case of two severely disabled men whose legs were mysteriously broken.” An official report has been unable to rule out a cover-up in the case of two severely disabled men whose legs were broken at a care home dubbed 'Britain's worst'. --- dailymail.co.uk, April 17 (UK) <https://is.gd/1aVUCH>
91. “Anti-Psychotic Drug was 'Contributing Factor' in Autistic Teenager's Death – Consultant.” A consultant has told an inquest that anti-psychotic drugs she prescribed to a teenager were "one of the contributing factors" in his death. Thomas Oliver McGowan, 18, who was mildly autistic and had epilepsy and learning difficulties, died at Southmead Hospital in Bristol on November 11 2016. --- careappointments.co.uk, April 19 (UK) <https://is.gd/OkL5p7>
92. “Disabled people lose legal aid in 99% of benefits disputes.” The extent to which savage government cuts have deprived disabled people of legal aid in disputes over their benefit payments is revealed today by new official figures that show a 99% decline since 2011. --- theguardian.com, April 14 <https://is.gd/ZY0tuZ>
93. “‘Disability voting rights a possibility’.” Access to voting for people living with disabilities is hard. And if you do not have the tools to vote, then how can you? --- herald.co.zw, April 16 (Zimbabwe) <https://is.gd/fQM3el>

MISCELLANEOUS

94. “How to Write Great Sci-Fi about Disability Law.” About halfway through Head On, the new novel by John Scalzi, Federal Bureau of Investigation agent Chris Shane is being chewed out by the head of the Philadelphia office for wrecking a \$50,000 piece of durable medical

- equipment while trying to save a cat from a fire. --- psmag.com, April 17
<https://is.gd/2O4RCh>
95. “I am autistic – and after the news about Hans Asperger, I think it’s time the condition was renamed.” These were the actions of a man who we did not know – Asperger’s was discovered and named by and after him, but that does not mean we are defined by him --- independent.co.uk, April 19
<https://is.gd/siHRZf>
96. “‘A Quiet Place’ Falls into a Tired Trope about Deafness.” In the not-so-distant future of “A Quiet Place,” sound kills. Earth, it seems, has become besieged by huge, blind, clicking, crepuscular creatures with nasty Venus-flytrap-Stranger-Thing-demidog-like heads. They are basically big, pulsating ears out to instantly slay anything that squeaks. --- huffingtonpost.com, April 14 <https://is.gd/YlwNRE>
97. “Stranger makes dream come true for family in need of a wheelchair accessible van.” This emotional story has touched the hearts of many in the Tennessee Valley. A grandmother in need of equipment to care for her granddaughter Angel. --- whnt.com, April 18 (Alabama)
<https://is.gd/dkeF98>
98. “Falcon Flight program allows intellectually disabled students to experience college life.” In the 122-year history of the University of Montevallo, students with intellectual disabilities did not attend the school. That changed in January with the Falcon Flight program. --- wbrc.com, April 17 (Alabama) <https://is.gd/XQrnw4>
101. “The autistic, non-binary, queer, law student fighting for disability justice.” Lydia X. Z. Brown is angry. A gender non-binary, queer, disabled person of color, Brown is self-described as “multiply-marginalized.” And the third-year law student at Northeastern, whose resumé of activism and pro bono disability justice work spans nearly 20 pages, is angry that there is still a need for this type of effort. --- northeastern.edu, April 19

<https://is.gd/bTgIJ2>

102. “YHS senior brings musical to special ed and the Golden Chain Theatre.” Yosemite High School senior Alli Ruiz, brings to the Golden Chain Theatre, “YHS Unified,” a lighthearted musical performed by 8 special needs students, raising awareness and funds for special education. --- sierrastar.com, April 13 (California) <https://is.gd/1awcU6>
103. “Child Abuse Hotline Teams up With Pediatricians.” Health care professionals around the Grand Valley are taking an extra step to help in the fight against child abuse and neglect. In a single day Mesa County Department of Human Services answers an average of 30 phone calls. --- westernslopenow.com, April 17 (Colorado) <https://is.gd/fskJiy>
104. “Dawson County Schools see 94 percent special education graduation rate.” There was hardly a dry eye in the audience when, Hershel Bennett, director of the Exceptional Children program, took the podium at Monday night’s board of education meeting. “Tonight’s a big night for exceptional children. --- dawsonnews.com, April 17 (Georgia) <https://is.gd/VHsYli>
105. “Jake Wilson search: As divers look for autistic teen, mother says 'everybody is wanting him back'.” Divers squeezed into brightly colored dry suits to look along Wolf Creek on Thursday as the search for a missing autistic teen who went for a walk and never came back entered its fifth day. --- desmoinesregister.com, April 12 (Iowa) <https://is.gd/0lbHrW>
106. “How the Hart parents isolated their children to hide signs of abuse.” Jennifer and Sarah Hart’s 6-year-old daughter told a Minnesota public school teacher in 2010 that she had “owies” on her tummy and back after her mother hit her with her fist, leaving bruises. --- fox2now.com, April 15 (Minnesota) <https://is.gd/1TwVAc>